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## Near East/South Asia Report

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18 January 1984

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## INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

### BRIEFS

SOCIAL DEFENSE CHARTER--Rabat, 29 Dec (MAP)--The Arab Organization of Social Defense approved during its Wednesday extraordinary session a project of revision of its charter that was presented during the last conference of Arab ministers of the interior. Under this revision, all issues pertaining to police and security areas will be dropped from the charter. Thus any co-operation in this area will henceforth be made at the level of the Council of Arab Interior Ministers and not at the level of the organization, and therefore, the Arab Bureau for Struggle Against Crime, the Arab Bureau of Judicial Police, the Arab Bureau for Narcotics, and liaison sections will depend on the council's secretariat. Participants also approved the setting up of a seven-member committee entrusted with reviewing the situation of the organization following this revision. The committee is composed of Saudi Arabia, Algeria, Tunisia, Libya, Morocco, Syria, and Kuwait. [Text] [LD300432 Rabat MAP in English 1215 GMT 29 Dec 83]

CSO: 4500/30

## BRIEFS

COOPERATION ANNIVERSARY WITH USSR--Moscow, 27 Dec (APS)--A ceremony is to take place today in Moscow to celebrate 20 years of economic and technical cooperation between Algeria and the Soviet Union. Indeed, it was on December 27, 1963 that the first inter-governmental accord on economic cooperation was concluded between the two countries. It was the starting point for the development of a mutually profitable cooperation in diverse fields of the economic, technical, scientific and cultural activity which was concretized by the signature of Nemerons governmental accords. With the institution, about 15 years ago, of an Algero-Soviet inter-governmental commission of economic, scientific and technical cooperation, this cooperation was endowed with a juridical frame and fund a notable stimulus in the official visit of President Chadli Bendjedid in the Soviet Union on June 1981. Moreover, on the occasion of this anniversary, the Soviet press noted the Algerian economy is developing rapidly. [Text] [LD271109 Algiers APS in English 1020 GMT 27 Dec 83]

CSO: 4500/29

NEWLY APPOINTED PEOPLE'S ASSEMBLY CHAIRMAN INTERVIEWED

Cairo AL-MUSAWWAR in Arabic 11 Nov 83 pp 18-19

[Interview by Faruq Abaza: "The Minority in the Assembly Has the Right To Express its Opinion"]

[Text] In the first interview with Dr Kamil Laylah, the new chairman of the People's Assembly expected that the new session would be full of activity. He said that the minority in the assembly has the right to express its opinion and that we must respect that opinion. The People's Assembly chairman also talked about his journey from the village to parliament and the journey of the Egyptian constitution since the Administrative Code of Law up to the present constitution, which was introduced in 1971.

The interview began with the following question: We want to explore the human side in the life of the new chairman of the People's Assembly.

[Question] I was born in 1923 in a small village in Talkha Center in al-Daqahliyah Governorate. The name of the village is Jujar. It was previously in al-Gharbiyah Governorate. I was the third of six children, three boys and three girls, most of whom still live there. I have a brother who works in farming. What I want to emphasize is that growing up in the village is a great advantage. The village is one big family. Cooperation among its people is a predominate characteristic. There is a mutual community affection in both the festive and sad occasions that does not abound in the cities in their huge preparations, where the bond between neighbors is missing. One who belongs to a village and personally enjoys this relationship and the duties pertaining to it feels his ties and his endeavor is always toward it and especially at festivals and on special occasions. Despite the fact that I live in Cairo, because of my work, my feeling of happiness is confirmed when I visit my people and close relatives in the village, because among them I sense geniality, honesty, and nobility of character. The village, with its people and the greenness of its land and the honesty of good relationships among those who live there, does not fade from my mind whether I am in my homeland or away from it. Words fail me in translating the feelings and sensations that bind me to the village. This relationship exists between my village and its neighboring villages because of the bond of kinship and affinity. And this translates my link with Talkha Center completely!

About his political memories he says:

I received my primary education at the Talkha school, then went to al-Mansurah secondary school. During this time Egypt was the victim of the hated British occupation. Demonstrations were taking place, which were interpreted as rebellion of the people against this occupation and as a call for independence. At that time we also opposed the posture of the royal palace and its excesses. This period was characterized by numerous parties, among which were the Wafd, the Eloc, Young Egypt, and the Sa'adi party, but I did not join any of them. I was influenced toward the general nationalist trend, which existed at that time in the framework of the principles agreed upon by the people, such as liberty and evacuation, especially since the English occupation was aimed at plundering the national treasures and endeavoring to undermine everything because the primary means for the occupation to continue was reinforcement of its supports by domination and by eradication of rights and freedoms and spreading ignorance and corruption. During my studies at law school, which was during the second World War when the Germans tried to defeat the British army in the western desert, the students translated their disgust of the English by calling for Rommel to prevail. This was not an attempt to replace one occupation force with another, but rather an attempt to remove the colonialist by bringing about his defeat. Then we were all in agreement on the pan-Arab issues. When the 4 February incident happened, and after the English sensed the possibility of their defeat and their need for strong leadership to deal with the people and take over the prime ministry, endeavoring to promote calm and stability so that they could be free to confront an enemy that had begun to overrun their positions, they called on Mustafa al-Nahas, as a national leader, to form the new government. This happening included many concomitants. Al-Nahas refused to form a coalition government because he headed the majority, and some of the politicians opposed to him accused him of acceding to the office of the prime minister on the points of English lances when he said the English had threatened him with appointing an English governor and expelling King Faruq if he did not accept their call to form the government.

But after close examination some things have become clear that were not clear at that time, and the English actually were in a situation that forced them to take this step. I believe that it is not fair to suspect a politician's patriotism because everyone plays a role and faces it within his own specific circumstances and because the first and last objective is the best interests of Egypt.

I served as professor of general law in its constitutional and administrative law branches. We are one of the most deep-rooted countries into which constitutions have been introduced. With the rule of Muhammad 'Ali, the beginning of the history of modern Egypt, when he detached Egypt from the Ottoman Empire's rule, the Administrative Code of Law was adopted and it is still considered one of the administrative laws that regulate the activities of management and governments. Then in 1839 the "Honorable Course" was issued which includes some rights and freedoms, but the application was inconsistent with the stipulations. In the lifetime of Muhammad 'Ali Pasha, his son, Ibrahim Pasha took control, but presently he died and then his father followed him. After his death, 'Abbas I ruled, and he did away with freedom, closed the schools, and caused the people to live in complete darkness for fear that education would



affect their perception and they would start demanding their legal rights. After him came Sa'id, in 1863, who granted to the foreigners the Suez Canal concession and distributed land to the peasant farmers. Then came the rule of Isma'il, who wanted to follow the European system, so he established an advisory council of deputies, which was the first parliament in our modern history, but with modest powers. This parliament shared his view and affirmed his controlling and legislative role. It succeeded in bringing down one of the governments and made the government accountable to it. There was a successful test of the steadfastness of Egypt, her people, and their full rights to develop, but the test did not please the English, who were waiting for an opportunity to occupy Egypt, and so they incited the Ottoman authority against Egypt. There appeared on the political stage a nationalist prime minister, Sharif Pasha, who drew up a constitution in 1879 that was stillborn. Tawfiq took power after Isma'il, who learned his lesson and called on the foreigners for help in steering the country. He endeavored to subjugate the national forces, with advice from the English, until the 'Urabi revolution on 9 September, 1881. At the top of the list of this nationalist revolution's demands was the issuance of the constitution, and the creation of a parliamentary system, with the constitution on the model of European constitutions. 'Urabi was defeated and banished, and was accused unjustly, although he was a principle peasant leader who took up courageously the cause of freedom. It is not right to slander him or call into question his patriotism. If history is false, the day is coming when it will be corrected and the fighters will take their rightful place, no matter how long the wait. The English planned at this time to distort the characteristics of our struggle in order for there not to remain an example for Egyptian youth among her leaders and revolutionaries. In 1913, in the era of 'Abbas Hilmi II, a ministerial law came out forming the legislative assembly but it was not long before it was dissolved, after the outbreak of the first World War. During this period the role of national leader Mustafa Kamil, founder of the National Party, who made exhaustive efforts both here and abroad in behalf of Egyptian independence, became prominent. He died in his youth and was replaced as leader of the party by Muhammad Farid, who was the most splendid example of patriotism and sacrifice. Egypt will not forget the leader Sa'd Zaghlul, who led the revolution of 1919. The nation entrusted him to speak in its name, to demand its rights, and to stand up to those who had taken away those rights. Despite this, Lord Cromer was sending reports to his government saying that the Egyptians have no power and no strength, and have no capability of revolting or demanding liberty. Cromer was depending on false information after hearing a farmer singing a song which began: My gazelle [love] ran away from me/Who will find my gazelle?

He claimed that the Egyptian is lazy and needs someone to look for his love for him. But the revolution of 1919 upset all his predictions. The simple farmers managed to teach the great empire a hard lesson in the strength of revolution and revolutionaries.

After the revolution's success the English agreed to adopt the constitution of 1923, which is the first modern constitution, not a ministerial law, despite the fact that some said that it was high-sounding window dressing and greater than the capabilities of the Egyptian people. This constitution was characterized by bad application sometimes because minority parties had become numerous

and because of the interference of the palace and the English. Despite the fact that the Wafd party held a majority, it was not successful in achieving rule except in intermittent periods over the span of 8 years. This constitution was amended during the rule of Isma'il Sidqi in 1930, but was put back into effect again after the student demonstrations of 1936. This constitution was canceled on 10 September 1952 after the July revolution because it did not conform to the new hopes and ideas. It was replaced by a constitutional proclamation on 16 January 1953 that the new constitution would come out within a 3-year transition period. On 16 January 1956 the new constitution was proclaimed through a plebiscite and consequently the president of the republic was elected on 23 June 1956. But after the proclamation of unity between Egypt and Syria a new constitutional proclamation was issued on 5 March 1958 and after separation a temporary constitution to regulate the members of the government was announced. Then a constitution was issued on 24 March 1964 which was valid until the present constitution was issued on 11 September 1971.

We must not forget that with the outbreak of the July revolution its six principles were proclaimed, among which are: an end to feudalism and the establishment of social justice; and a sound democratic life. When they were announced as a movement, Maj Gen Muhammad Najib took command and the late leader Jamal 'Abd-al-Nasir took his responsibility and took command after him. After this the incentive of the July revolution was corrected with the 15 May revolution and there were developments and changes in several aspects under the leadership of the late Anwar Sadat. But we are committed to the principles of the two revolutions and Egypt, now under the leadership of President Husni Mubarak, is completing the march toward stability and prosperity.

About the new session, the new chairman of the People's Assembly says:

This session started one day ago. It was opened by the president with a splendid speech in which he summed up the foreign and domestic policies as well as issues of food production security and issues of differing opinions. He wants democracy to be genuine and to be practiced within the framework of the constitution and laws of the state because the objective of all of us, majority and opposition alike, is [the welfare of] Egypt. He was also concerned with the issue of youth, deepening a sense of loyalty and belonging, and with the value of their working for the sake of the homeland. The speech covered everything, including Africa's great position following the selection of Egypt as a member of the Security Council.

The historic speech was characterized by frankness and objectivity, and it affirmed the effort that President Husni Mubarak is making to bring about progress for the Egyptian people and reduce the suffering of the working classes by increasing agricultural and industrial production while adhering to dedication, mutual respect, integrity, and commitment to national achievement. We support him along the course of these great principles and pray for Egypt's utmost prosperity under this wise leadership. A great deal of work awaits the current session, and we ask that God will grant us the ability to do this work, as he has in previous sessions.



About the opposition says:

Democracy is an important issue. The president of the Republic has omitted no opportunity to affirm the need for it. The minority has the right to express its view and we must respect this view. The work of both the majority and the minority within the assembly must be marked by exemplary behavior, cooperation and consultation since the homeland is one, and the objective is one, despite differences of opinion.

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# MUSTAFA AMIN DISCUSSES PRESS, EGYPTIAN POLITICS

London AL-MAJALLAH in Arabic No 200, 10-16 Dec 83 pp 34-37

[Interview with Mustafa Amin by Dinar Rayyan; in Cairo: "Mustafa Amin Says, 'President Mubarak Should Relinquish Chairmanship of the National Party' "]

[Text] "A correspondent's office is better than a seat in parliament."

"I do not wish to return to the position of editor-in-chief of AKHBAR AL-YAWM."

"I reject the existing idea for the elections."

Many of the secrets of political life in Egypt before the 1952 Revolution are still under a veil of secrecy. The truth about the relationship between parties and the royal palace and the truth about partisan disputes and the reasons for them are still inscrutable matters to those investigating Egypt's history. AL-MAJALLAH chose Mr Mustafa Amin to be the subject of an interview about the truth about political life in Egypt. Mustafa Amin experienced the hidden sequels of Egypt's political life [which were played out] in the hallways of the National Assembly. In the past 2 years his column, "Fikrah," [A Thought] has turned into the most daring newspaper column in Egyptian newspapers. The interview with Mr Mustafa Amin was extended to include the reality of political life in Egypt now. His incisive responses revealed the truth about the struggle that took place within the Wafd Party before the Revolution, and they revealed the relationship between the party and the royal palace. Mustafa Amin spoke about Egypt's political life now, affirming that Egypt's parliament had lost its power and had become subordinate to the government. Mr Mustafa Amin opened up many questions about the Egyptian press, its status and the hope for its reform. The interview with him follows:

[Question] You are calling for a society of multiple parties. Are you a party man, and must a journalist be a party member?

[Answer] No. I did not join a party. When I was a student, however, I was a Wafdi because of the circumstances of my family and because I was living in the house of Sa'd Zaghlul. However, when I left school to work in the press I decided I would not join a party because I discovered on my first job in Wafdi newspapers, for example, that a party [tends] to control a newspaper and feed it false news even though it knows that the news is false. A party would do that

for no other reason than such news serves its interests. An example of that was when the secretary of the party, Makram Pasha came once [to the newspaper] to talk with al-Tabi'i and to tell him the news that Sidqi Pasha would resign that week. We all thought that the news was quite trustworthy because it came from a reliable source. But after the news was published, nothing happened. It turned out that the news was false even though it had been reported by a person of some consequence. It turned out that the purpose of such false news was [to ensure] that people who were hesitant and apprehensive and wanted to break away from the party would continue to be members of the party when they would hear that the cabinet would resign. This is what made me after that refuse to work in party newspapers. When I was offered a position in AKHIR SA'AH in 1938, I stipulated that it be independent of parties. Therefore, it is my opinion that a journalist may not be a party member except in one case: if he is working for a newspaper that speaks for one party in particular. It would follow that such a journalist would have to be a party member.

[Question] If Mustafa Amin were to become a member of the Shura Council or a member of the People's Assembly, what would be his first subject of inquiry?

[Answer] I tried being a member of parliament, and I was in fact a member of parliament for 5 years. I wanted to resign my seat every day because I found out that I had 1,000 times more power as a journalist than as a member of parliament. I am not suitable for the position of member of parliament.

[Question] Let's pretend together that Mustafa Amin did accept a seat in parliament under different conditions. What would be his first subject of inquiry?

[Answer] The first subject of inquiry would be how is it that most of the representatives are government employees? Such a strange system doesn't exist [anywhere] in the world! How can one work under a minister and then discuss matters freely with that minister in parliament? How can that person keep an eye on that minister? The minister can control that employee who is also a representative [in parliament]. He can fire him; he can promote him; and he can intimidate him. Therefore, parliament has lost its power, and parliament has become subordinate to government. [Before that] ministers used to be subordinate to parliament.

[Question] The late 'Ali Amin wrote once in [the column], "Akhbar al-Ghadd" [Tomorrow's News] in AL-AHRAM that President al-Sadat was thinking of using the British model of parties for guidance in conducting the political process. Is this the most suitable model for Egypt?

[Answer] The most suitable thing is for President Husni Mubarak to relinquish the chairmanship of the National Party. But I fear that if he were to leave the National Party, the party won't have a single member left! I also reject the dictatorship of the Wafd Party because I am opposed to any dictatorship. But I hope the Wafd Party will become a strong party alongside a strong National Party, and I hope that another number of parties as well will be just as strong so that there can be some kind of balance. As far as the British model is concerned, I do not think it is suitable for Egypt because we are a republic and we will not change that. The president is elected, and naturally he will always have supporters. I think, however, that after the president is elected he should relinquish leadership of the party out of which he came.

[Question] What do you think of the statement that describes the inner workings of the Wafd Party as dictatorial? [According to the statement] Sa'd Zaghlul fired many Wafd Party board members when they disagreed with him, and al-Nahhas did the same thing.

[Answer] As far as the first dispute is concerned, Sa'd Zaghlul thought that the nation had entrusted him personally with [the task of] defending the question of independence. He thought that the idea of giving up that assignment was unacceptable. How could he give up that assignment when millions of Egyptians had entrusted him with it? The Egyptians had entrusted Sa'd Zaghlul by name with that assignment. Therefore, when a group of people came forward and said that domestic independence was enough and that total independence could be disregarded, Sa'd Zaghlul refused and said, "That would be considered a violation of the trust which I insist upon." In spite of that, he did not fire those who had disagreed with him; they resigned. The dictatorship of al-Nahhas, however, manifested itself in the fact that he fired a majority [of members] in 1932. When he fired Makram Pasha in 1943, he did so with [the support of] the majority of the Wafd's members. When he fired Ahmad Mahir and al-Nuqrashi, he also did so with [the support of] the majority of the Wafd's members. Therefore, I do not agree with that statement, and I deny the charge that the party was dictatorial particularly under Sa'd Zaghlul and al-Nahhas.

[Question] What does Mustafa Amin think about the fact that the Wafd Party was struggling between rejecting the 1923 Constitution and entering the elections under the auspices of that constitution [on the one hand] and between its hostility toward the royal palace and being conciliatory to it [on the other]?

[Answer] Sa'd Zaghlul rejected the 1923 Constitution. When he was in exile he said that that was the constitution of a committee of rogues. When he returned, he found that the people had decided to participate in the elections no matter how much falsification would be involved. Sa'd Zaghlul did in fact run in the elections, and he won a sweeping victory. He received 200 out of 214 seats [in parliament]. As far as his hostility to the royal palace was concerned, he was always hostile to the royal palace. The royal palace even contemplated his assassination, but in 1950 the Wafd Party formed an alliance with the king, and it was that alliance that brought down the Wafd Party because the people rejected it.

It Will not Succeed

[Question] Do you think that the new Wafd Party will be in any way like the old Wafd Party by virtue of the fact that its key political figures have changed?

[Answer] If the new Wafd Party makes mistakes like those which were made by the old Wafd Party, it will not succeed. If the new Wafd Party struggles and fights as the old Wafd Party did, and if the new Wafd Party is as tough and as patient as the old party was, it will succeed.

[Question] What are the mistakes of the old Wafd Party?

[Answer] At one time, for example, the Wafd Party gave its members favors on a large scale. This is a comparison: in 1924 the Council of Ministers headed by Sa'd Zaghlul decided to grant each civil servant who had been imprisoned by the

British during the Revolution an extraordinary grade. In other words, those who had fought were granted promotions. But in 1936 al-Nahhas began promoting his relatives, and Wafd ministers began promoting their relatives. Al-Nuqrashi protested, and it was that protest that was one of the reasons for his departure from the Wafd Party.

[Question] In Egypt's democratic process will the new Wafd Party attract political influence at the expense of the ruling National Party or at the expense of the opposition parties?

[Answer] I think the new Wafd Party will attract a large number of people who are not active in politics. In other words, it will attract those who now disdain political games; it will attract young people in particular. If it attracts all the people from the National Party, it will attract only two percent of the people. The new Wafd Party will not attract people from opposition parties because they will not make the party stronger. The new Wafd Party must attract new people who are not involved in the present game of parties.

[Question] Does Mustafa Amin think that the party's interests would be served by having some members of the Wafd's old guard in leadership positions, or does he think that that would impede the party and keep it from staying in step with the new facts?

[Answer] It is my opinion that a number of the old guard should remain and that they should be joined by a very large number of young leaders. This is because Egypt has changed, and it will change in the future. If the Wafd Party were to do what it used to do in 1930, no one would understand it. The new Wafd Party must think with the mentality of the year 2000. That can only be done by young people.

[Question] A committee was formed in the late seventies to write the history of Egypt. That committee was headed by then Vice President Husni Mubarak. What do you think about this matter of writing history, and who in your opinion is to write the history of Egypt?

[Answer] I am opposed to history being written by those in power. When those in power write history, what they write will turn out to be an official bulletin. History is to be written by those who lived it, those who saw it and those who experienced it. However, when those in power write history, the process becomes merely a statement made for posterity to defend a course of action.

#### Not Secret Reports

[Question] You portrayed Egypt during a certain epoch of history in your novel, "Sahib al-Jalalah al-Hubb" [His Highness, Cupid]. What was the role that you at least played in this climate of Egypt which you portrayed?

[Answer] In that climate I was in prison. Luckily, however, the secretarial staff of Field Marshall 'Amir were in prison with me. We were in prison together for several years. I found out from them everything that used to go on in the palaces. The story is a true story: its events began with the war of Palestine, and ~~it~~ continued till after the Revolution.



[Question] Mustafa Amin, are you a man of letters? Are you an amateur novelist or a professional novelist?

[Answer] I do not consider myself a man of letters, but what happened is that when I was a prisoner, I noticed that none of the young people knew their history. I told myself that if I were to write historical books, [only] 3,000 copies would be sold, and the books would not be entertaining. Therefore, I thought that the best thing for me to do would be to write the history of Egypt in serials and to use a love story as the background for the book. Thus, instead of 3,000 readers reading a history book, millions would read my book.

[Question] Which political figures during the age of the Revolution were your contemporaries?

[Answer] My contemporaries were Muhammad Najib, Jamal 'Abd-al-Nasir, Salah Salim, Jamal Salim, al-Baghdadi, Kamal al-Din Husayn and 'Abd-al-Hakim 'Amir. They were all my contemporaries.

[Question] Whose story would you like to write in a work of fiction?

[Answer] The story of Jamal 'Abd-al-Nasir.

#### Before Nationalization

[Question] At political or press conferences you call for the election of editors-in-chief. Were editors-in-chief elected in your organization before it was nationalized? If that system were to be applied and journalists were to elect Mustafa Amin editor-in-chief, would you accept that position?

[Answer] Of course not. I would not accept a position as editor-in-chief because I was editor-in-chief when I was 24 years old. I was the youngest editor-in-chief in Egypt. This [job] is like a bicycle: when one is young, one longs to ride one, but when one grows older and becomes a man with a beard and a moustache, he becomes the object of people's ridicule if he were to ride that small bicycle. Therefore, I do not wish to be an editor-in-chief of AKHBAR AL-YAWM. It is my opinion that that opportunity should be given to young people. They have to savor [the experience] and toil on that same road on which we traveled. Therefore, a young man must be selected for the position of editor-in-chief. As far as AKHBAR AL-YAWM Organization is concerned, this is what happened when we had to select an editor-in-chief. We had something like a board which was made up of myself, 'Ali Amin, al-Tabi'i, Kamil al-Shinnawi, al-Sawi, Tawfiq al-Hakim, Jalal al-Hamamsi, Rakha and Muhammad Yusuf. We used to agree on selecting the editors-in-chief, and that was how we chose them. Al-Tabi'i, al-Hamamsi, 'Ali Amin, Kamil al-Shinnawi, Zaki 'Abd-al-Qadir and myself served as editors-in-chief. Then we "put Haykal to work" as one of the editors-in-chief; we let Ahmad Baha' al-Din serve as editor-in-chief; and we "put Musa Sabri to work" as an editor-in-chief.

[Question] The Egyptian people have a saying which states that a ship which has two captains sinks. AKHBAR AL-YAWM had 100 captains. How did it do?

[Answer] Not at all. Work in AKHBAR AL-YAWM was divided, and things were going very very well.

[Question] What do you think of the Egyptian press now?

[Answer] As long as the Egyptian press is subordinate to the government, it cannot be reformed. Like any police officer in charge of a district, it may be transferred to Aswan, to Jirja or to al-Minya; or like any government employee, it may be given a raise. The Egyptian press must be liberated from government. It can then take off. But as long as it is being held in chains, it will be impossible for it to move. As long as an editor-in-chief waits for daily instructions and as long as he writes for one reader only, who is the ruler, the condition of the Egyptian press will not improve, and there will not even be a struggle between generations because each generation in the press would just wait for its turn to get promoted without a struggle.

[Question] If you were to become responsible for AKHBAR AL-YAWM tomorrow, which generation will you tap for assistance? And what will you do with the other generations?

[Answer] This is a very serious question that I am being asked since the old generation in its entirety are my students. All the editors-in-chief in the Arab countries are my students. Nevertheless, I would say that I would tap the new generation for assistance. This is inevitable. I appointed Ahmad Baha' al-Din editor-in-chief when he was 30 years old. I was editor-in-chief when I was 24 years old. This has always been my opinion: the press cannot take off without new blood. [My feelings about that are so strong] that quite some time before AKHBAR AL-YAWM was published, I came to realize that there was only one well-known writer in the newspaper. Each newspaper had only one writer, and it was only the name of that writer that would appear in print. In AL-BALAGH that name was that of al-'Aqqad; in AL-JIHAD it was Tawfiq Diyab; in AL-AHRAM it was Barakat; in AKHIR SA'AH it was al-Tabi'i; and in AL-MUSAWWAR it was Fikri Abazah. When I became editor-in-chief of AL-JIL Magazine, I said that we would have to make the same changes in the press as those that are made in the movies among the movies' main characters and stars. I started sending the editors to the artists, and I told them, "Let them talk, and you write the articles and sign their names." This was how articles written by 'Abd-al-Wahab, Umm Kulthum and Najib al-Rihani appeared in print. The idea was successful, and they became stars. I began trying to bring ordinary people [into the business] and turning them into writers. I used to write many articles and sign their names to those articles. One of those for whom I used to write became so famous that when we conducted a survey in AKHIR SA'AH Magazine to ask who was the best writer, readers chose that writer first. I was ranked third [on the list of the readers' favorite writers]. This was how we treated junior editors. I used to take the articles of one of those junior editors, and I would re-write those articles which would be printed with their byline. They used to learn [from this] and not the opposite. Then I began to encourage them to sign their names to [their articles]. This was the opposite of AL-AHRAM's policy where I had worked for 7 years during which articles with my byline had not appeared. For a long time the editor-in-chief would not look at an article that anyone had submitted. He would look at the end of the article. If he found it signed, he would throw the article in the waste paper basket. The only name that would appear in print was that of the editor-in-chief. I changed all that. I wanted to turn those editors into celebrities. I put Haykal's [name] in a headline, "Haykal Flies to Iran." I put Anis Mansur's [name] in a headline: "Anis Mansur in a Trip around the World." I also put the names of Musa Sabri and another number of editors in the headlines. It was always my opinion that if I

were to add to the importance of the junior editors around me, my own importance would be enhanced. But the generation that came after me believes that when one enhances the importance of junior editors around oneself, one's own importance is diminished. But that is not true, and my experience attests to the opposite of that.

It has been my hope, whether or not I would be responsible for AKHBAR AL-YAWM, to adopt you, the young generation. But what happened was that when I came out of prison, I used to hold meetings on Fridays for all the editors. I used to give them lessons in journalism. These meetings were very successful, and the journalists benefited from them. But after a period of time President al-Sadat informed me that he did not want these meetings to be held. The president said, "I do not want to see journalists like you or from your school. One [of you] is enough!"

#### I Refuse the List

[Question] Which party's list will get your vote in the parliamentary elections?

[Answer] I cannot vote for a list, and I insist on my right to vote for the individuals I want and not those imposed on me by a party. Each party will have me vote for two, three or four candidates I do not want in return for one I do want. That is unacceptable to me. I will not give my vote to a list of names imposed on me by any party.

[Question] Would you name five persons who are directly responsible for the condition that the Egyptian press has come to?

[Answer] I can answer your question without mentioning names so as not to hurt anyone. The names can be surmised from the events. Early in the game the rebels who were leaders of the Revolution were mindful of the press, but some journalists conspired against the press, and instead of being a source for its strength, they sold it to the ruler. After having shared power with the ruler, the press was now under the ruler's thumb. There were actually five persons [who were responsible for this], but they had followers. Early in the Revolution and until 1956 Jamal 'Abd-al-Nasir used to seek our counsel. But after that he changed, always threatening journalists and telling them, "If you say too much, I will put you in jail." He repeated that threat very often, and that was because of the five persons and their followers. 'Abd-al-Nasir then published the newspaper, AL-JUMHURIYAH, and he believed that it would do away with the rest of the newspapers. Twenty officers came to AKHBAR AL-YAWM saying that they wanted to study how the newspaper was managed. They said they wanted to see [our] book-keeping. They asked what our capital was, and we told them we had started with 18,000 pounds which grew until our capital became 80,000 pounds. 'Abd-al-Hakim 'Amir figured that out and said, "Those people are making a profit. I have 300,000 pounds in the officers' pension fund which can be used to establish a newspaper. Using the same calculations used for the figures of AKHBAR AL-YAWM, we can make 1 million pounds. We would thus be investing the officers' pensions." They applied those statements to AL-JUMHURIYAH. Afterwards when 'Abd-al-Hakim 'Amir talked to me, he told me, "You've ruined us!" The project to invest the pensions in AL-JUMHURIYAH had failed, and they were forced to borrow 300,000 pounds from the Ministry of Finance to make up for the loss of the officers' pensions. The situation in AL-JUMHURIYAH went on like that till 1960 when



'Abd-al-Nasir told me, "Take AL-JUMHURIYAH with its building, its printing presses and its French newspapers. I do not want it." 'Ali Amin, Sayyid Abu al-Naja and I met, and we thought that taking over AL-JUMHURIYAH would ruin AKHBAR AL-YAWM because AL-JUMHURIYAH's losses exceeded AKHBAR AL-YAWM's profits. We turned down the offer, and 'Abd-al-Nasir laughed and said, "If there were a promise of any profit in this opportunity, you wouldn't be letting it slip away!" Events in the Egyptian press continued to deteriorate because of those who were responsible for those events during that period.

[Question] Who were the recalcitrant editors-in-chief who took over the affairs of AKHBAR AL-YAWM?

[Answer] I do not want to hurt anyone, but this does not deny the fact that recalcitrant people took over AKHBAR AL-YAWM and did considerable damage to it. They influenced its course particularly in the sixties when I was in prison. I left AKHBAR AL-YAWM, a newspaper with the largest circulation, and then those recalcitrant people came and turned it from the foremost newspaper to the third. Then Musa Sabri became editor-in-chief of AL-AKHBAR and improved the standing of the newspaper a little. Then Ihsan 'Abd-al-Quddus came and also improved it. I wrote to the two men to thank them because I had felt before [like] a man whose daughter had married a hooligan who had hurt her and hurt her reputation.

#### From One Stage to Another

[Question] Some people in the Egyptian press are saying that we have gone out of a stage in which editors would complain to the president of the republic about the injustices of the organization's president and entered into a stage in which the presidents of [press] organizations complain about the injustices of the editors to all the state's political agencies and all professional associations. What is your evaluation of this statement in the light of the problems journalists have been having recently with the leaders of their organizations?

[Answer] I do not at all recall that editors complained about me to the president of the republic. It is possible that people outside the organization [may have complained], but not people within my organization. That I do not remember. What I do remember, however, is that in 1962 President Jamal 'Abd-al-Nasir told me, "I decided to return you to the top position in AKHBAR AL-YAWM instead of Kamal Rif'at. Of course some journalists in AKHBAR AL-YAWM bad-mouthed you after you left, but you can fire those who did that when you return to that position. They were about 450 journalists." I told him, "No. Those who bad-mouthed me did not come to 40 persons. They are three or four people, and I know who they are. But I consider them all my children, and children can wet their pants when they sit on their parents' laps. A father does not resent his child when the child has such an accident. A father merely laughs and smiles." This is what I did when I went back to AKHBAR AL-YAWM. I told those people that anyone coming into [the offices of] AKHBAR AL-YAWM would be secure, and that was the end of that. But now I do not approve of what the presidents of organizations are doing. It is the duty of the president of an organization to protect his editors, not to file complaints against them.

[Question] Do you agree with others who think that during the past 2 years your column, "Fikrah," [An Idea] has contained opinions that were more daring than

any contained in any other column in the press in Egypt, including what you yourself had written in the past?

[Answer] I do not think so. All that happened is that as of November 1981 cancellation of the column stopped. At first, four or six lines would be deleted from the column, and sometimes half the column would be deleted. [Sometimes] the idea behind the column would be rejected, and I would be asked to write a new column. But as of November 1981 I have not had a single word [in the column] deleted. This is the secret behind the power of that column. It is the censor who deserves thanks and not Mustafa Amin.

[Question] Suppose each one of the men whose names follow were to give you his autograph [and ask you] to write something for him after he reaches the age of retirement and leaves his position in the press. What would you write about Muhammad 'Abd-al-Jawwad?

[Answer] Positions are not permanent.

[Question] And Anis Mansur?

[Answer] If you give people credit for what they do, they will give you credit for what you do.

[Question] And Musa Sabri?

[Answer] You wrote your opinions impetuously, and you could have written those opinions in a more deliberate style. It is my opinion that this is the duty of a journalist. I think this is where a journalist differs from an advocate. There is no doubt that you are loyal to Anwar al-Sadat, but it is my opinion that a writer must be loyal to the country first.

[Question] And 'Abdallah 'Abd-al-Bari?

[Answer] The best salesman in Egypt!

8592

CSO: 4504/107

CONSTRUCTION CONTRACT FOR CANAL PROJECT AWARDED

Tunis LA PRESSE DE TUNISIE in French 28 Nov 83 p 7

[Text] The Dong Ah Construction Industrial Co. has been awarded the contract for a \$3.297 billion project in Libya, the biggest civil engineering contract ever awarded to any construction firm in the world.

Lee Kwan-Yung, [Korean] deputy minister of construction, announced on 7 November that a construction contract for a 1,900 kms long water canal had been signed in Tripoli by the Dong Ah Construction consortium and its two subsidiaries and by the Libyan authorities in charge of executing the "Great Artificial River" project.

Choi Wousuk, president and director general of Dong Ah, and Mohammed El-Mangoush, representing the Libyan Government, signed the contract. Minister of Construction Kim Sung Bae also attended the contract closing ceremony.

The Great Artificial River Project calls for the manufacture and installation of 253,000 segments of reinforced concrete pipes over a distance of 1,900 kms to irrigate nearby areas with a daily flow of 4 million tons of water.

This project, which is considered to be the backbone of Libya's "green revolution," is intended to provide year-round irrigation to an area of 1,200 square kilometers of arable land in the coastal regions and to supply the drinking water and water for industrial use needed in the vast desert areas along the water canal.

"The contract will raise to \$7.5 billion the total value of new construction projects undertaken in that country this year by Korean firms, which is approximately 70 percent of the business done last year by that industrial sector," Deputy Minister Lee noted.

The project is not only a favorable sign for the economic cooperation between Korea and Libya, it is also a terrific boost for Korean contractors who are bidding on several agricultural development projects in countries of Africa and the Middle East.

According to a Dong Ah official, Dong Ah Construction Co, Dong Ah Concrete and Korea Express Co were designated separately to install, manufacture and transport a total of 253,000 cylindrical pipes of reinforced concrete, each 4 meters wide and 7.5 meters long.

This vast project, scheduled to take 7 years to complete, will be executed in two stages. The first stage consists in laying 998 kms of pipes to bring water from Sarir to Sirte on the Mediterranean coast. The second stage involves laying 897 kms of pipes from the water reserves of Tazerbo to Benghazi on the coast.

Dong Ah Concrete will install and operate two manufacturing pipe plants in Sarir and in Brega to make locally all the pipes required. According to a company official, his firm has a technical agreement with the U.S. firm Price Brothers Co. to guarantee the quality of the reinforced concrete pipeline.

During the 83-month construction period, 12 million Korean [wons] will be paid into the budget on account of the sales volume: exports of construction equipment and materials made in Korea will amount to \$672 million, and 3 million units of construction equipment with very high returns will go into operation.

The terms of the contract stipulate the formula that is to be used for upwards adjustments of the prices of cement and steel products and provide for a 5 percent increase applicable to other construction costs. The Korean partner will be paid in advance 7.5 percent of the total cost, an advance of \$247 million. Then it will receive spread out payments in local currency for 25 percent of that cost while the remainder will be paid in U.S. currency.

It took the company 2 and one-half years of negotiations before it was able to secure the contract made retroactive to March 1981 which is the date when the project was started. During the 2 and one-half years of negotiations with their client, the Dong Ah Company was in competition with more than 30 internationally renowned contractors from West Germany, France and the United States.

8796

CSO: 4519/53

## BRIEFS

LIBYAN-BULGARIAN TALKS IN SOFIA--Sofia, Rabi al Awal 24, Dec 29, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY--Arab Libyan-Bulgarian talks last night started in Boyana guest palace in Sofia. The talks were attended by Staff Major 'Abd al-Salam Jallud; 'Abd al-'Ati al-'Ubaydi, foreign liaison secretary; Abu Zayd Durdah, land reclamation secretary; and a number of experts. From the Bulgarian side the talks were attended by the Prime Minister Grisha Filipov, the ministers of foreign affairs, foreign trade, agriculture and a number of officials in the Peoples Republic of Bulgaria. At the end of the session three sub-committees: political, economic and strategic, were formed and asked to take further consultation effort in order to promote the cooperation existing between the two countries. [Text] [LD291515 Tripoli JANA in English 1421 GMT 29 Dec 83]

SFRY, LIBYA COOPERATION AGREEMENT--Tripoli, 29 Dec (TANJUG)--Yugoslavia and Libyan Jamahiriyyah signed in Tripoli today, Thursday, an agreement on cooperation in agriculture, water resources industry, science and technology. The protocol was signed by Yugoslav Government member and chairman of the Federal Committee for Agriculture Dr Milorad Stanojevic and Libyan Jamahiriyyah Secretary for Planning Fawzi Saksuki after three-day talks. The talks reflected the cordial atmosphere characterizing relations between the two friendly and non-aligned countries. The results of the visit have been mutually assessed as positive and concrete. The need for a steady promotion of bilateral economic cooperation was particularly emphasized. Yugoslav work organizations will participate in the realization of some new development projects in Libya. In the field of agriculture, the most significant will be the poultry farms and six seed processing centers. Yugoslavia will participate also in projects involving the exploitation of underground water in the desert areas of Libya. The founding of a mixed company for well drilling was discussed as were also joint investments in the fattening of lambs in Yugoslavia for the Libyan market. [Text] [LD292132 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1813 GMT 29 Dec 83]

CSO: 4500/29



# AL-NAJAF DEVELOPMENT, GOVERNOR'S REPLIES TO CITIZENS REPORTED

Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 28 Sep 83 pp 8-9

[Article: "Face to Face With Governors, AL-THAWRAH Presents Citizens' Observations, Proposals and Complaints to Officials at al-Najaf Governorate"]

[Excerpts] We all remember al-Najaf, this holy city to which visitors come from all directions and which has a history abounding with feats and glories.

We all remember its dark and backward image prior to the revolution, when it received no care or attention. At the time, a visitor saw the faults of the city and its inhabitants, which merged with those of the surrounding districts.

Even though this hill overlooking the desert contains the remains of Imam 'Ali, the hero of Islam and Arabdom, may he rest in peace, and even though this city is the city of learning, literature and language, it suffered from a negligence whose gloomy features spread throughout all its parts and which were reflected on the faces of its inhabitants.

With the birth of the revolution, al-Najaf was reborn and began to receive distinctive care and attention, to live in dignity and to assume its rightful place, becoming a bright young governorate.

The resting place of Imam 'Ali, peace be upon him, and the entire governorate and its citizens have received the love, sympathy and special care of His Excellency President Saddam Husayn. Al-Najaf today is different from al-Najaf that the visitors knew in the days of oppression and deprivation and different even from al-Najaf that its own citizens who emigrated from the city before the revolution knew.

When AL-THAWRAH announced its intention to confront governors face-to-face with the citizens letters, proposals and complaints, we expected that our meeting with the governor of al-Najaf would involve more letters and complaints than for other governorates, considering that the previous image of this city and its citizens still exists in many minds. But it was not what we expected. We received fewer letters for this meeting than we expected. However, we had an appointment with 'Aziz Salih al-Numan, the governor of al-Najaf, and we kept our meeting with him.

On reaching the outskirts of al-Najaf, the truth began to dawn and the secret behind the meager number of letters and complaints became clear. The signs of construction and change began to appear from a distance and the familiar barren stretches between al-Najaf's outlying districts and the center of the city no longer exist.

New construction is almost uninterrupted between al'Abbasiyah, al-Kufah and the city of al-Najaf, between al-Hirah, Abu Sukhayr and al-Najaf and between al-Haydariyah, Khan al-Hamrad and the governorate center.

It is a new map embellished with projects, construction and new residential areas where construction is proceeding ceaselessly and actively.

At the governorate office, the governor of al-Najaf, his deputy, his assistant, the director of municipal affairs, the director of roads, the director of al-Najaf Municipality, the general director of health, the general director of education, the acting director of water and sewerage, the director of electricity, the director of buildings, the director of telegraph and telephone, the director of police and the acting director of traffic were waiting for us.

AL-THAWRAH was represented by 'Izz-al-Din al-Mani', manager of AL-THAWRAH and AL-JAMAHIR, by photographer Mahmud 'Ali Hasan and by AL-THAWRAH's reporter in al-Najaf.

We found it proper to invite the chairman, secretary and members of the governorate's people's council and a number of citizens to participate with us.

At the outset of the meeting, we did not conceal from the officials what we had expected before arriving in al-Najaf and what we had found on arriving in the governorate.

The governor said:

In the name of my brother officials, my comrades in the party and al-Najaf citizens, it pleases me to thank the esteemed AL-THAWRAH for its true and sincere follow-up on citizens' issues, proceeding on the basis of its message and of the principles in which it believes, namely, the principles of the Socialist Arab Ba'th Party, and the instructions of His Excellency President Saddah Husayn, which call for caring for the citizen and providing him with all his needs so that he may live a dignified and honorable life in beloved Iraq, which God has honored with a great heroic leader embodying all the genuine Arab morals and values and humane principles.

If we speak of the attention the revolution devotes to al-Najaf in accordance with the instructions of his excellency the president, then the numerous and lofty projects that the visitor to the governorate now sees are the best proof of this attention. His excellency the president's direct interest in the holy places is extensive and constant. His excellency's generous care has included the venerable clergymen and the holy places in particular.

The courtyard of al-Haydari Mosque has been tiled with marble, the sacred tomb, al-Hadrah al-Haydari and the tomb of Musallam ibn 'Aqil have been enclosed in glass. His excellency has also personally contributed large precious chandeliers for the tombs of Imam 'Ali and Musallam ibn 'Aqil and for al-Kufah mosque. His excellency has further ordered that the courtyard of al-Haydariyah tomb be covered with Islamic masonry work. This project has cost large sums and is nearly 75 percent completed.

His excellency also ordered that businesses, hotels and buildings adjacent to the venerable mosque--all of which defaced the appearance and sanctity of the mosque and were incompatible with the mosque's character--be eliminated. In fact, these buildings have been expropriated and removed and the wall surrounding the mosque has been repaired. The project has cost millions of dinars. A project was designed for the city and the cost of the expropriations amounted to 77 million dinars. This sum has already been disbursed. The project includes construction of a tourist town and the repair and development of historical sites, mosques and religious schools.

#### Sixty-six Million Dinars for Civic Center

His excellency the president also instructed that 66 million dinars be allocated this year, despite the war conditions imposed on us, to complete the governorate's civic center, which includes 2,400 shops, in addition to offices and apartments. This project has been entrusted to an international firm which will begin work at the start of 1984.

The governor also spoke of al-Najaf citizens, stressing their absolute loyalty and their great fealty to his excellency the president--loyalty and fealty that they have expressed in their willingness and their enthusiasm to defend the homeland, its honor and its dignity. The governorate's old and young citizens, including some children who tried to change their age in the courts, have come to share the honor of volunteering and redeeming the country. This is not surprising from the citizens of this governorate, which is well known for its deep-rooted and genuine Arab history throughout successive eras of Islamic civilizations. The first brigade of volunteers to enter the battle was the First Brigade of Volunteers formed from among the heroic citizens of al-Najaf. This brigade was visited by his excellency the president and the commander before it moved to the front lines with the malicious enemy.

As an extension of this loyalty and fealty, donors have come to the donation centers to donate money and gold and their donations have exceeded those of all Central Euphrates governorates.

The governor then proceeded to explain to us the dimensions of the health, educational, tourist, housing and service projects that have been completed and of those that are still under implementation. These projects underline the eagerness of the political leadership, headed by struggler President Saddam Husayn, to develop this governorate and to supply its citizens with services. The governor suggested that we take a comprehensive tour to see the great projects and accomplishments achieved under the revolution. Work on some of these projects still goes on despite the conditions of the treacherous war.



## With Citizens' Letters

After the people's council representatives made their observations, we told the governor that a number of citizens had written to us and that their letters contained a number of observations concerning the municipal, educational and agricultural services and traffic, as well as miscellaneous other observations and that we hoped, by presenting the letters, to get satisfactory answers for the citizens to read directly.

The first letter is from citizen Kamil Ghayth Sajit from Qadisiyat Saddam quarter and it says: This quarter is one of the gains made by the heroic fighters during the battle of honor and dignity with the Iranian enemy. This quarter has received special attention from the officials, led by his excellency the governor. Powerlines, a water network and electricity poles have been installed. However, there are observations that we wish to present to the governorate officials, namely, the lack of municipal services and the accumulation of trash in the streets because there are no trash barrels. There are also piles of debris and sand in the middle of one of the squares. They have piled up as a result of work performed in this quarter but have not been removed by the municipality. Moreover, some roads have been surfaced with asphalt whereas others have been left unsurfaced. It is hoped that this campaign will be completed. There is another observation concerning the main street separating al-Qadisiyah quarter from al-Amir quarter and proceeding in the direction of the industrial quarter. Since being paved, this street has become a source of concern for children and citizens because people drive on it at high speeds and some workers in the industrial quarter drive their vehicles up and down the street to test them. At times, the vehicles are driven by teenagers below the legal age who endanger the quarter's children, who go to their schools in other quarters because there are no schools in this quarter. Finally, the letter expresses the hope that night patrols will be assigned to guard the quarter, especially since most of the quarter residents are fighters present at the front lines.

The governor said: Insofar as the services are concerned, I agree with the citizens' observations. The shortage of cadres in the municipality has caused a delay in regular removal of trash. This is why we have drawn up a plan to launch periodic popular action campaigns in all the residential areas to clean up and remove their trash.

As for the debris and the sand, they resulted from the campaign launched by the municipality to pave the streets in this quarter, and they will be removed as soon as the campaign is completed.

We have now drawn up a new plan to organize the paving operation in all the quarters. We have started with al-Sa'd quarter and then with al-Amir quarter, the old city and al-Husayn quarter. We will then proceed to the other quarters in turn. The previous system for paving was unsound and confusing. We used to pave a street in one quarter and then move to another without completing the remaining streets in the first quarter, and so on. We have found that the new method is better. We have formed a central team for implementation in cooperation with the authorities concerned. Still, the municipality carries out

similar concerted campaigns to move the debris and wastes out of the streets of the new quarters.

As for the issue of the trash barrels, the municipality had previously supplied a large number of them but some citizens started using them for construction purposes. This is why we have supplied a number of large containers in which to dump trash. The governor has instructed the municipality to conduct an immediate inspection of the area to supply it with one or more containers for placement in the right spot. He has also urged the citizens to dump their trash in these containers.

As for the schools, the general director of education pointed out that many schools now exist in quarters close to al-Qadisiyah quarter and are not very far from it, adding that no real complaint has been received in this regard. He named a number of schools that are only 200 meters, or a little farther, from the quarter.

As for the cars being driven by some juveniles and the numerous violations committed by some people, the governor stressed that this does really exist in all parts of the governorate. Despite the deterrent measures we have taken recently and even though the traffic agencies pursue such violations and impound cars driven by juveniles below the legal age, this condition is, regrettably, still present. The governor hopes that parents will cooperate with the agencies concerned to eliminate this regrettable phenomenon. The acting traffic director asserted that some patrols are sent to this street in particular to pursue the violators and to bring them to account.

The governor asserted that many guilty drivers have their cars impounded because of the violations and that some of the impounded cars belong to citizens from outside the governorate, because al-Najaf is often frequented by a large number of citizens and visitors either for the purpose of tourism, to have their cars repaired in the industrial quarter or to attend a funeral procession. Some of these people commit such violations in the city.

Then there is citizen 'Abd 'Awn Ahmad, who points out in his letter that the city of al-Najaf has expanded greatly and rapidly and that new and scattered quarters have sprung up in it. But the question here is: Where do the children residing in some of these new quarters, which have no schools yet, go? Moreover, there is only one kindergarten in al-Najaf. This citizen wonders: Is it possible for the branch of the General Federation of Iraqi Women to open a number of such kindergartens so that they could accommodate the children of working women?

The governor said that the problem of lack of schools does not exist in these quarters, except for al-'Urubah. Schools in the adjacent quarters are not actually sufficient to accommodate the children residing in this quarter. This is why we have arranged with the prefabricated housing plant in Karbala' to build a school in this quarter. We have also reserved a number of units to open a new school as a result of the expansion in this quarter. On agreement with the minister of local government, we have added to the new program a plan to build a new school in this quarter. As for the other quarters, there is

absolutely no problem. This is what has been stressed by the general director of education as well, who added: At the outset, we utilized a building belonging to the health department and opened a school. But this school cannot accommodate a large number of children, hence the temporary measures about which the governor has spoken as a temporary solution to the problem.

The general director of education noted that the number of elementary schools in the governorate has now risen to 264, that 164 new schools have been built, that there are 71 secondary schools and that 329 popular schools have been opened. This is in addition to the technical institute, which cost 23 million dinars, the agricultural institute, 4 preparatory vocational schools, a preparatory agricultural school, a business school and a vocational training center.

As for kindergartens, the governor noted that 22 new kindergarten buildings have been completed since al-Najaf became a governorate. As for nurseries, the governor said that there were three nurseries, in addition to another nursery supervised by the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs. But as part of the program of the General Federation of Iraqi Women, the nurseries were cancelled. I have discussed with the Ministry of Labor the question of building a nursery or opening a new one. I have also agreed with the chairwoman of the General Federation of Iraqi Women to provide government buildings and we now have two buildings that we hope will be opened for the purpose. However, these are not enough to meet the governorate's needs, even if the federation furnishes the needed cadres. This is why we hope that the Ministry of Labor will agree to open a number of nurseries in the governorate within the next plan.

Finally, we presented the contents of a letter from citizen Sandas 'Ubayd, who lives in al-Manadhirah District, to the governor. Because the problem raised by this citizen is a private problem, he has invited her to see him personally to familiarize himself with the problem directly and to deal with it to the best of his ability and within the limits of the law.

We will review in the next part the rest of the discussion that took place at the meeting with the governor of al-Najaf and the other governorate officials and will deal with the observations and proposals made by citizens 'Abd-al-Hamid Hassun, 'Abdallah Qasim Hasan and a number of tenants of al-Nafaq shops, by Hasan Jawad, Kazim Judah 'Atiyah, Falah Hasan al-Janabi, Husayn 'Awdah and a number of farmers from al-Hurriyah subdistrict, by Jabbar Fahim Muhammad, Hashim Majid 'Abbas, 'Adnan Sa'id 'Abd-al-Ilah Ahmad, Falah Hasan 'Ali, Salim Ahmad 'Abdallah, teacher Halim Mi'mah Ahmad, Jasim 'Aziz Husayn, Hashim Muhammad Shabib, 'Abdallah Musallam Khalaf, Sana' Ahmad 'Abd-al-Wahid, Kazim Husayn, Talib Mahdi al-Kassar, Salih Khammat Muhammad, in addition to our field observations.

As for citizens Hadi Kazim Muhammad, 'Aziz Sakban Hamad, Muhammad Buraysh 'Abd, 'Abd-al-Hadi 'Ali, Muhammad Jabbar Muhammad and Hafiz 'Alawi Husayn, the governor has asked to meet you personally to familiarize himself with the details of your letters and to deal with them in accordance with regulations.

# AGRICULTURE OFFICIAL REPORTS ON WINTER PLANTING

Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 20 Oct 83 p 7

[Article by Muhyi-al-Din Jasim: "Senior Undersecretary of Ministry of Agriculture and Agrarian Reform to AL-THAWRAH: Beginning Implementation of Winter Planting Plan for New Season; Planting More than 11 Million Donums With Various Crops"]

[Text] The agricultural departments and agencies concerned in various parts of the country have begun implementation of the 1983-84 winter season plan of the Ministry of Agriculture and Agrarian Reform, starting actual planting operations in their areas.

This has been revealed to AL-THAWRAH by Dr Isma'il Ibrahim, senior undersecretary in the Ministry of Agriculture and Agrarian Reform, who said: The acreage scheduled to be planted during the current winter season is nearly 11.9 million donums, representing 87 percent of the total area scheduled to be planted over the winter and summer seasons and amounting to 13.7 million donums.

## Method of Distribution

He said that in distributing the acreage, consideration has been given to the area targeted for irrigated cultivation, with 5.3 million donums or 38 percent of the total acreage set aside for the purpose, whereas 8.4 million donums, or 62 percent of the cultivable area, has been designated for dryland farming.

He added that the distribution process has also taken into consideration the method of utilization, with 10.5 million donums or 77 percent allocated for the socialist sector and 212,000 donums for state farms, of which it has been decided to cultivate 159,000 donums during the current winter season. An area of 27,000 donums has been allocated for collective farms. Of this area, 32,000 [as published] donums will be cultivated during the winter season. Meanwhile, 10.2 million donums have been allocated for the agricultural cooperatives. Of this area, 8.7 million donums will be planted during the current winter season.

The plan has not disregarded private sector activity, for which 3.7 million donums have been allocated. Of this area, 2 million donums will be planted during the current winter season.



### Attention to Orchards

The senior undersecretary also spoke of the ministry's plan for orchard development, saying that the plan provides for developing orchards with a total area of 12,110 donums, of which 1,070 donums are to be planted with date palms. It has also been decided to develop 261 donums of fruit orchards, in addition to 18,000 donums of existing orchards.

To implement this part of the plan, consideration was given during the formulation of its details to producing 4.3 million seedlings of various fruit trees and decorative trees.

To develop and improve fruit trees, the plan calls for the production of nearly 2.6 million seedlings of various kinds of fruit trees and nearly 188 tons of improved vegetable seeds, in addition to 2.5 million seedlings of varied vegetables.

### Increasing Forest Area

Answering a question on the ministry's role in developing forests, the undersecretary said: The ministry continues to take steps to improve and perpetuate 152,000 donums of man-made forests, in addition to 7,000 donums of existing natural forest lands. In accordance with the plan, 3,170 donums of flat and mountain lands will be planted with forest trees. Moreover, 375 donums of public roads will be planted with forest trees and nearly 10,000 donums of afforested roads will be perpetuated. It has also been decided to plant 1,790 donums of sand hills with forest trees in order to stop desertification.

It has also been decided to produce 3.8 million seedlings of forest trees and 529,000 seedlings of olive trees, considering that the ministry has included in its plan the cultivation of 110 donums with olive trees.

### Current Season's Fertilization Plan

The senior undersecretary also discussed the ministry's plan for fertilization, saying that the total area scheduled to be fertilized in the summer and winter seasons amounts to nearly 3.4 million donums or 25 percent of the total area scheduled to be cultivated throughout the country.

### Securing Agricultural Requirements

Concluding his statements, the undersecretary said that the ministry adopted expeditiously the measures necessary to secure all requirements for the success of the agricultural plan, including fertilizers, materials and pest control equipment, and for training the technical and administrative cadres needed for the purpose. All this has been done with the objective of intensifying the agricultural operations and increasing agricultural production within the framework of well-studied steps in order to rise to the level of securing the food necessary for the citizens and of relying on local production to meet the local markets' and the citizens' need for various agricultural crops.

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# UNDERSECRETARY DISCUSSES HOUSING MINISTRY PROJECTS

Baghdad AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 20 Oct 83 p 5

[Interview with 'Abd-al-Muttalib Ahmad Taqi al-'Uraybi, undersecretary of housing and reconstruction: "Our Ministry Has Distinctive Role in Development Process; 38,000 Housing Units Now Being Built; Work Continues To Complete Strategic Highway Project; Construction of 296 New Bridges During Years of Revolution; Role of Ministry of Housing and Reconstruction Is Planning and Execution; Setting Up Plants To Produce Construction Materials To Meet Needs of Our Projects; date and place not specified]

[Text] The party and revolution leadership, headed by President and Commander Saddam Husayn, has devoted special attention to the construction, housing, roads and bridges. The main report of the Ninth Regional Congress of the Socialist Arab Ba'th Party dealt with this sector, stressing the party and revolution leadership's interest in it.

The Ministry of Housing and Reconstruction has played a distinctive role in the development process generally and in housing, roads and bridges in particular. This makes obvious the great efforts the ministry exerts and the utterly capable role it performs in the above-mentioned spheres. The ministry exerts at the same time doubled and special efforts to raise the experience of the national cadres working in it.

To find out what the ministry is doing at present and what it plans to implement in the future and to know all this in detail and with figures, AL-JUMHURIYAH has conducted this interview with Eng 'Abd-al-Muttalib Ahmad Taqi al-'Uraybi, undersecretary in the Ministry of Housing and Reconstruction:

[Question] The ministry is implementing numerous housing projects in the country's various governorates. Please tell us the details of these projects and of what is expected to be completed during the current year.

[Answer] The housing projects under implementation include 38,000 housing units in various parts of the country.

What characterizes projects of the Public Housing Agency is that they provide complete services even though the provision of these services is not one of the agency's direct responsibilities. What we mean by the services is: First, water, sewerage, electricity, road and telephone networks, called the technical

infrastructures, and, second, the buildings for educational, health and commercial services, such as kindergartens, schools, clinics and markets, as dictated by the capacity of each housing complex.

This constitutes qualitative development insofar as housing in its true scientific sense is concerned. This is what the party and revolution leadership has sought. In the past, in the mid-1970's in particular, some of our projects were built without electricity, water and other services. This is why the projects remained unused. (To provide the services simultaneously with the completed projects), the agency has adopted a system based on complete services.

We know that the housing policy adopted in Iraq is a policy that calls for 60 percent of the housing units to be built by the citizens, meaning the private sector, and 40 percent by the socialist, namely, the cooperative and government, sector. The role planned for the cooperative sector is to take the major part of the socialist sector's share.

But in the long run, the private sector's role will be the effective and influential role. This activity does not go unassisted. The instructions of his excellency the president that nearly 400,000 plots of land be distributed by the end of the current year is a step on the path leading to housing for every citizen, especially since the already high price of land is rising, thus making it difficult for people to own land. We know how effective are the state loans advanced by the Real Estate Bank, whose activity is now confined to the families of war prisoners, martyrs and those missing in action.

To offer the citizens greater benefits, the agency prepares blueprints and plans for model housing compatible with the land distributed. Before the end of the current year, there will be 30 models offered to the citizens free of charge, including the needed quantities of construction materials, such as cinder-blocks, cement, iron and so forth, so that any quantities exceeding requirements will not be wasted.

As for what we have accomplished, the following figures illustrate the growing rates at which housing units are being completed.

In 1978, only 900 housing units were completed. In 1979, the figure rose to 1,690 units, in 1980 to 2,870 units and in 1981 to 6,100 units. In 1982, the figure was 5,200 units. It is expected that the figure this year will be 11,500 housing units with all their requirements. Moreover, 14 hospitals, each with a capacity of 400 beds, have been built in various parts of the country, in addition to 11 hospitals for pediatrics and obstetrics, most of which were completed in 1979. The second part of the medical city project will be completed this year.

#### Road and Bridge Projects

[Question] The 5-year plan includes major road and bridge projects that seek to link various parts of the country to facilitate traffic between the

governorates. Would you please tell us about these projects and about what portion has been completed so far?

[Answer] It is well known that the effort of the Roads and Bridges Agency has been focused on the battlefronts. This has affected the agency's work as set forth in the 1980-85 plan. This does not mean that the agency's activities have come to a halt but that these activities are not at the pace planned. The agency has been able to open and surface thousands of kilometers of roads in the interest of the war effort.

However, one of the most important and gigantic projects, insofar as the volume of the work is concerned, being undertaken in the area by the agency is the 1,200-kilometer-long strategic highway extending from Safwan to al-Ratbah, passing through the Governorates of Dhi Qar, al-Muthanna, al-Qadisiyah, Babil [Babylon] and Baghdad and branching off to Syria and Jordan.

Work on this highway is proceeding in accordance with the technical standards in operation with advanced countries. The highway has six lanes, three in each direction, plus two marginal lanes for emergency stops and median isles.

The highway has fences all along both sides to prevent animals from straying onto it and causing traffic accidents. The highway has no intersections, such as railroad crossings or intersections with subsidiary roads, at the same elevation. Wherever such intersections exist, they are at different elevations.

There are on the sides of the highway complexes that include telephone booths, gas stations, maintenance workshops and passenger resthouses, in addition to helicopter pads used for emergency rescue purposes. There is also central electronic control over this highway, which has 12 international firms working to complete the project.

There is another highway that extends from Baghdad to Mosul and then to the Turkish border. Work on this project has not yet begun.

As for bridges, it is well known that before the 1968 revolution there were only 141 bridges in the country's various governorates, most of them small, primitive and wooden. Since the revolution, 296 bridges have been built. Most of these are major bridges and their total length is three times that of all the old bridges.

In Baghdad itself, there were 6 bridges before the revolution and the figure rose to 10 main bridges in 1982; 2 other bridges are under construction. Since the start of the war and up to the present, 28 bridges have been built, including 13 main bridges.

#### Prefabricated Building Projects

[Question] On the instructions of the leadership, the Ministry of Housing and Reconstruction has turned its attention to prefabricated building projects.



We wonder: What has the experiment produced, what is the number of prefabricated building projects in the country and will there be an increase in this type of construction?

[Answer] The country's prefabricated building experiment has encountered numerous obstacles, perhaps the most significant being the fact that we embarked on the experiment on a large scale without having the expertise for this type of construction--expertise that makes it possible to choose the ideal method for us or that meets the country's needs according to its conditions.

However, despite the obstacles and the slow progress in prefabricated construction, the experiment has been beneficial by developing the experience of the national cadres and enabling them to continue to operate the plants relying on their own expertise.

We now have four plants producing the materials for prefabricated construction. The plants are located in the Governorates of Baghdad, al-Basrah, Mosul and Karbala' and they have built housing projects for their workers. The country has expanded this experiment and three more plants more suitable for the country have been set up, taking advantage of the previous experiment. The new plants are located in the Governorates of Baghdad, Maysan and al-Ta'mim.

There are other housing projects for the citizens in numerous places. The completed units have already been distributed. In al-Basrah, for example, more than 700 housing units were distributed a year ago. In Mosul, the first part of a housing project, including 462 units, has been completed.

#### Planning and Execution Role

[Question] Is the role of the Ministry of Housing and Reconstruction one of execution only or does it go beyond execution to participation in drawing up the blueprints and plans and offering technical advice?

[Answer] The ministry's role is not just one of execution. Many of our departments draw up blueprints and offer technical advice.

There is the National Center for Engineering and Architectural Consultations, which specializes in drawing up blueprints. Most of the projects are designed by national cadres. When compelled to resort to a [foreign] consultant for matters requiring specialization, then the center joins as a partner with the consultant in drawing up blueprints.

There are blueprinting departments in the ministry's agencies, such as the Roads and Bridges Agency, which designs all roads, except for express highways. As for bridges, the agency has drawn up complete blueprints without resorting to foreign expertise.

As for the Building Agency, it has a complete department that prepares the blueprints for the projects entrusted to it. This is the rule in work. The exception is to seek the assistance of [foreign] consultants. When a consultant is employed, the contract stipulates that the agency participate in drawing up the blueprints, beginning with the method and ending with the detailed plans.

The same applies to the Public Housing Agency. This agency receives special attention from the ministry. We will expand the use of electronic computers in preparing blueprints. Many of our engineers have attended special courses at the ministry's center for training on the use of computers in preparing blueprints. This is a qualitative leap in the ministry's work.

#### Coordination With Other Ministries

[Question] The ministry's work requires coordination with the other ministries. Can you tell us the type and degree of this coordination?

[Answer] Our coordination with the other government departments and agencies stems from the fact that we are entrusted with projects concerning this or that department or agency. For example, we have the agency in charge of constructing government buildings. From the start, this agency, in cooperation with the beneficiary agency, draws up the blueprints after determining requirements.

When a ministry asks us to build a conference hall, for example, the agency studies all the necessary and precise details of this request and draws up the blueprints accordingly, meaning that the agency receives the request and transforms it into a blueprint,

There is a number of model government buildings. So to save time, we prepare "patterned" models in advance. The only difference lies in the lay of the land, when the soil is soft and requires special foundations. What is also to be noted is the different construction materials used in different areas. In the norther area, stone is used instead of cinderblocks.

In preparing a blueprint, we also take into consideration the area of the site and the capacity of the building. A court in a district or subdistrict is different from a court in a governorate capital, and so forth.

As for roads, we coordinate with the departments concerned to determine the route of the roads. Good coordination is also established with the other agencies concerned.

[Question] The central report of the party's Ninth Regional Congress notes that the failure to expand in setting up construction materials plants has generated an annual shortage of 25 percent. What is the impact of this shortage on your projects and what steps have you taken for continued work in your projects?

[Answer] Even though our relationship with construction materials is determined through use only, when we experienced the shortage of construction materials, and to guarantee continuation of the work, the ministry decided to set up construction materials plants within the limits of our needs. In this regard, we have set up three plants that produce latticed iron, concrete blocks, polystyrene--heat insulator--and electricity networks used in prefabricated and semiprefabricated construction. The bridges section of the Roads and Bridges Agency has set up its own plant for the production of concrete blocks.

We also produce tiles, which cost 180 fils per tile whereas they are sold to the consumer for 460 fils per tile. We have begun to sell directly any surplus to our needs to the public for 220 fils per tile. We also have specialized plants, such as the asphalt plants, of which we have many because the nature of our activities requires us to produce asphalt.

This has come about fundamentally as a way to meet our needs and to guarantee high quality at low cost. Moreover, in this way we alleviate shortages for the public, for whom a greater supply of construction materials will be available as a result of our not competing with them.

#### Concentrated Practical Expertise

[Question] There is no doubt that your large-scale activity over a long period of time has provided a rich experience. Can you tell us about the expertise gained by our engineers and technicians through practical experience?

[Answer] Our engineers and technicians have had an opportunity that has not been made available to their counterparts in many countries. It is well known that since 1976 the country has witnessed large-scale and energetic activity in the sphere of development. Thus, all our workers, including administrators, have been thrown into the work.

Young workers who are in their early working years have gained extensive expertise through direct and constant contact and work with international experts. If we in the ministry dealt with man as a figure, we would need many times the number of engineers and technicians we have. But we have made up for quantity by quality by enabling our national cadres to gain rapid experience and expertise and through the ideal utilization of time.

Our new engineers are assigned big jobs and you find them working with experienced foreign firms operating according to the latest methods and using computers and other technology.

We have thus developed a large number of national cadres with good experience and we put this expertise at the service of any Arab country that requests it.

In the long run, we plan to create a broad base of national cadres capable of implementing development projects with little reliance on foreign expertise.

In this regard, the ministry has set up specialized firms that operate as contractors in the socialist sector, such as the Public Company for Water and Sewerage Contracts, which implements major projects, and the Public Company for School Building Contracts.

The departments of other agencies have been instructed to adopt the system of direct implementation and to use modern technology, such as the Housing Agency, which uses Iraqi manpower and expertise and high-level technology.

## Constant Development and Seeking What Is New

[Question] The ministry has set up the National Center for Construction Laboratories. What does this center offer?

[Answer] The National Center for Construction Laboratories shoulders a big responsibility in conducting quality tests for all of the ministry's projects. Its role extends from soil testing to tests during project implementation to quality control over all of the activities in a major project. There is at the site of every important project a laboratory over which the resident engineer has no control, whether the project is implemented by a foreign firm or directly by the ministry. There is a daily test log in which all tests are recorded.

The center has developed rapidly and it now conducts tests that cause no damage by using sophisticated electronic equipment. The center is constantly on the lookout for international developments in the world of laboratory testing so as to insure quality control over our activities. This center has branches in all of the governorates.

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# DIFFICULTIES IN BIDDING FOR HOUSING DETAILED

Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 5 Nov 83 p 10

[Article by Nadiyah Ahmad: "Nice Apartments, But..."]

[Text] On the television we read an advertisement which says "The State Housing Authority in the Ministry of Housing and Reconstruction announces that on 8 October a public auction will commence for 10 apartment houses in the southern district of Housing Project Number 10 at the project's headquarters. The auction will continue every Saturday and Wednesday each week from 9 to 12."

Then the announcement ends and the chatter begins, some of which contains some truth, the rest having no connection with any facts. The names of several citizens were mentioned.

We went to the site of the project and the following is what we saw:

The area next to the project's main square is occupied by the sales committee. The one who announced the opening of the auction was standing in front of it. Through a loudspeaker he was describing the apartment being auctioned and its price.

There was very little bidding at the auction, and on some days there was almost none, as we learned from one of the members of the sales committee. We also learned that by 22 October 60 out of 675 apartments had been sold. There are two types of apartment: a two-bedroom model priced at 36,100 dinars and a three-bedroom model costing 41,700 dinars. However, both were being sold for 36,150 dinars, with the exception of ground floor apartments, each of which has a hedged garden. These also come in two sizes, a three-bedroom model with a price tag of 56,975 dinars but which was sold for 60,200 dinars, and a two-bedroom model costing 45,511 dinars.

A down payment of half of the purchase price is paid at the time of purchase and the remainder is paid over 10 years if the purchaser is a civil servant, or over 5 years if he is not a civil servant. We also discovered that certain conditions must be met to participate in the auction. Among these conditions are that the prospective purchaser must have been born in Baghdad, and neither he nor his wife nor any of his children may own any real estate. In this way the bidding is restricted to citizens who need housing.



We stopped to listen to what some of those who were present but were unable to participate in the auction had to say.

Mrs Nidal Muhammad 'Abd, an employee in the State Clothing Company said: "This is the fifth time I have come to the auction since it opened, but I have been unable to participate because of the difficult repayment terms, specifically a 50-percent down payment be made and that the other 50 percent be repaid over 10 years. I come here each time hoping that a change in these terms will be announced making the required down payment 25 percent instead of 50 percent."

Another citizen, Mr Muhammad 'Abd, a civil servant in the Ministry of Health, added: "We hope that the terms will be made easier by allowing three quarters of the price to be repaid over 20 or 25 years, the way it is done in other projects, so that civil servants and workers will be able to obtain housing which was prepared primarily for them."

These statements were made in the presence of the project's director. They were followed by a long discussion with him and the citizens. During this discussion we hoped he would offer a proposal within the permissible limits, but he was not authorized to offer any such proposal. He did proceed to offer us an explanation of the project's first-class specifications which are known to everyone.

We remained with the citizens to follow the progress of the auction, which proceeded at a rapid pace. Today only a single apartment was sold, at a price of 36,150 dinars, when Nuriyah Musa Husayn, a civil servant in the Central Bank, made a bid of 50 dinars above the minimum sale price. We said: "Congratulations." The sales committee closed the bidding an hour before the scheduled closing time because of the absence of any bidding. We and the citizens still await the decision.

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## COMPUTER CENTER BEING ESTABLISHED FOR INDUSTRIAL SECTOR

Baghdad AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 31 Oct 83 p 4

[Article: "Computer Center: Advanced Technology For Improving Industry"]

[Text] Since the outbreak of the glorious revolution of 17-30 July the industrial sector has always tried to be the first to introduce advanced modern methods in its various facilities. This has been due to its awareness of the importance of advanced technology and automation and their connection with improved performance and raising productivity to the proper level.

During the last few years the industrial sector represented by the Ministry of Industry and Minerals and the Ministry of Light Industries has been able to rely more than any other sector on standardized computer systems and programs for accounting, inventory, and administrative and scientific purposes. Computers were first used in the State Electric Company at the outbreak of the 1968 revolution. Utilizing that technical expertise the Ministry of Industry and Minerals in 1975 carried out a study of the potential for using computers in most industrial sector establishments whose operations were large enough to justify the use of minicomputers. Several of these computers were installed between 1976 and 1983. There were approximately 35 computers using standardized programs which were designed and maintained by Iraqi specialists working for the ministry. They were also operated by completely Iraqi cadres at various installations where the cadres were trained in data entry and analysis of output in training classes and a carefully planned and scheduled program which preceded the actual hands-on work with the computer.

During 1982 the scientific concepts and framework were developed for the industrial sector's information technology. A computer center was established to serve the two ministries. An internal system was devised to serve the expected ends in the sector's information technology.

The center's purpose within the framework of its specified activity is to achieve the following goals:

1. Undertake research, development and guidance in the application of information technology and operations research in the industrial sector.

2. Carry out feasibility studies on applying automated methods in manufacturing and management.
3. Design, develop and improve standardized systems.
4. Oversee application of the standardized systems in the various industrial establishments.
5. Undertake all training in the scientific and practical fields relating to information technology. During 1982 the Ministry of Industry and Minerals introduced an experiment in office automation, using word-processing equipment in those organizations and bureaus which are engaged in the preparation of studies, reports and monitoring schedules. In this way the great amount of effort required for periodic reports and statistical indicators which serve to monitor all levels of production and operations was reduced.

The two ministries recently opened a special wing together in the industrial sector computer center. They have allocated the necessary equipment and facilities for it to carry out its required activities satisfactorily, and to better serve the sector's various organizations. The center coordinates plans and investments, and it offers guidance on computer purchases on the basis of sound scientific planning to ensure that available equipment, material and human resources are utilized to best advantage.

In the immediate future the computer center will turn its attention to designing standardized systems to serve senior management in the two ministries, and in particular a system to monitor production and sales on the organizational and ministerial levels. A project-monitoring system is under implementation. With regard to management systems, there are plans to apply a database- and management-monitoring system using computers and microfilm together.

As far as research and development in industrial information management are concerned, efforts are being concentrated on tailoring an off-the-shelf industrial documentation system to the computer's storage and retrieval of internal industrial data. The intention is to coordinate with Arab, regional and international organizations in obtaining local, regional and international data. Specifically, the Arab Industrial Development Organization in Baghdad has a computer that is compatible with its counterparts being used by the industrial sector.

The attention the Ministry of Industry and Minerals is devoting to information technology stems from its awareness of the basic services it can offer to the industrial sector. Computers, data processing and data communications in this age are seen as another revolution after the industrial revolution, and as the backbone and basic framework for advancement by development countries which are attempting to join the ranks of the more developed nations in this area. An encouraging thing about this technology is that the amounts invested in it are not high when compared with the material, social and scientific returns they produce in the various industrial facilities and the concomitant reduction in manpower and dependence on foreign labor.

## MARINE TRANSPORT ESTABLISHMENT ISSUES SHIPPING STATISTICS

Baghdad AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 4 Nov 83 p 8

**Article:** "Marine Transport: Improved Operating Procedures and More Firmly Entrenched Technical Foundations"

**Text** As Iraqi ships traverse the world's seas they confirm the contemporary nature of economic activity in this revolutionary time. And as the experiment develops, and practical implementation is accomplished in harmony with all the elements of economic and social progress, success is indicated, and it is time for an assessment.

The Iraqi State Marine Transport Company in Basrah now operates 16 modern ships with tonnages ranging from 3,600 to 13,600 tons. The following additional details were supplied by the company's director general.

The net tonnage of these ships is more than 94,850 deadweight tons. The company operates regular voyages to transport general cargos for four shipping lines in northern Europe, the Mediterranean, the Far East and the Indian subcontinent.

Since it was founded in 1976 from the Marine Transport Company, the company has helped to support our national economy and to expand services to Iraqi importers. It has won the confidence of the business community by its punctual performance.

The director general indicated that the expanding routes have confirmed this over the last 5 years.

The company plays an active role in several international and Arab maritime conferences. It holds membership in the Federation of the West Coast of India (western Asia), the Federation of the East Coast of India (eastern Asia), the Federation of the Red Sea, the Federation of the Mediterranean and the Arab Federation of Maritime Shippers.

The director general said the following about the company's technical cadres:

"The company has worked to improve its marine and technical cadres by 95 percent and to strengthen them with Iraqi captains, engineers and technicians. In order to develop these cadres it has sent several study missions and has organized training classes."

In closing the director general stated that the Iraqi merchant fleet transported a very large amount of freight in 1982. During the same time company officers and agencies were opened all over the world to allow shippers and importers to more easily secure the services of the Iraqi maritime line.

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## BRIEFS

WHEAT SEED DISTRIBUTED--The Ministry of Agriculture and Agrarian Reform has created a special committee to distribute wheat seeds to farmers and agricultural workers. Serving on the committee are several organization chairmen and directors general in the ministry. AL-THAWRAH received this information from a source in the Ministry of Agriculture and Agrarian Reform, who said, "The committee has undertaken the task of devising a program to distribute 4,000 tons of wheat seed for planting purposes. The seed is to be distributed during the current winter season in the nation's farms in the northern governorates and in the governorates of Diyala and Wasit. The committee will also devise a plan to ensure a larger supply of these seeds in coming years." The committee will monitor the task of continually increasing the yield from these seeds, particularly in the rainy areas, over the next 5 years. The committee will also monitor agricultural procedures. The source added, "The committee is launching a far-reaching campaign to emphasize to the farmers and agricultural workers that these seeds have been dusted and are not fit for human consumption. This warning--in Arabic--has been fixed on all the bags in pink letters. The seeds are distinguished by their high yield, their resistance to drought, their responsiveness to fertilizer and their high food value. [Text] [Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 22 Oct 83 p 6] 9123

DIYALA TELEPHONE SERVICES--Diyala--The Public Post, Telegraph and Telephone Agency has put into operation the new electronic telephone exchanges in the Districts of al-Khalis and al-Miqdadiyah and the subdistricts of Ja-lula' and al-Sa'diyah in Diyala Governorate. This has been announced by the director of the Diyala post and telegraph, who also pointed out that the old telephone numbers have been replaced by new numbers. The director added that work continues on installing telephones for the public after completion of the proper formalities. The technical official in charge of installing and operating the exchanges has pointed out that subscribers in various parts of the country can call telephone subscribers in the districts of Diyala Governorate by dialing the number 0257 in addition to the subscriber's number. However, manual cable exchanges have been installed in the villages of al-Dawjahmah, al-Hadid, al-'Anbakiyah and al-Jizani in the governorate. Work to install and operate the electronic exchange in Kafri District continues. Telephone expansions are being currently introduced in the city of Ba'qubah and its quarters with the purpose of offering citizens the best telephone services. [Text] [Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 20 Oct 83 p 7] 8494

## SITUATION IN VILLAGE LEAGUES EXAMINED

London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 13 Nov 83 p 3

Article: "The Village Leagues on the West Bank: There Are No Faces Left, and the End Is Drawing Near"

Text About 2 months ago, the Israeli media reported the resignation of Mustafa Dudin, the chairman of the Federation of Village Leagues on the West Bank and the founder of the first league in the area of al-Khalil. In terms of his personal relations, he was the most powerful person in the leagues. The general secretariat of the Federation of Leagues accepted his resignation and appointed Jawdat Sawalihah, the head of the village league in the area of Nabulus, as chairman pro-tempore of the federation until such time as a new chairman is elected. It is probable that this will be Sawalihah himself.

The resignation was not a surprise, but the timing was surprising. "Disputes" between the village leagues and the martial law authorities are no longer secret. They have reached the point where accusations are being exchanged in public. Most observers expect that the dissolution of the leagues will finally be announced in the near future.

Dudin's resignation amounts to the high point of these disputes. It may be the beginning of the end. The crisis has numerous causes.

The leagues were the brainchild of Menachem Milson, the first hand of the civilian administration on the West Bank, and his assistant, Yigal Karmun. Milson thought it was possible to create alternatives to the PLO. However, the plan did not succeed. The leagues proved incapable of providing any political services to the occupation. They became a financial and political burden for it, especially given the practices the league members engaged in after they were approved. They began to rob and terrorize the citizens, and to commit acts of aggression against individuals and institutions.

On the day Milson resigned, after the Sabra and Shatilla massacre, his assistant Colonel Karmun took over his activities. Karmun saw himself as being qualified to undertake the role of chief. However, the minister of defense at the time, Ari'el Sharon, appointed Brig Gen Shlomo Ilya as the head of the civilian administration, thereby angering Karmun and inducing him to resign from the civilian administration in protest. Karmun did not hesitate to criticize Ilya and the authorities who had appointed him.

## A Personal Struggle

These positions caused a personal struggle to break out between the current and former members of the civilian administration. The effects of this struggle were reflected on the leagues and their leaders. The first measure Ilya took with respect to the leagues was to expel the head of the al-Khalil league, Eng Muhammad Nasr, who had been Milson's protege. He charged him with misusing funds and weapons. Muhammad Nasr tried to turn to the High Court, but pressure was applied to him and he froze the issue. However, he did not forget to describe the leagues as an agent of the current civilian administration in a speech he gave at a meeting attended by both Arabs and Jews in Tel Aviv which was organized by Menachem Milson himself. Milson is trying to form a party calling for peace between the Arabs and the Jews.

The leadership of the civilian administration has opened the file on the leagues during Milson's time. Recently, it issued charges against more than 20 league members, among them the head of the Bayt Lahm league, the son of the head of the Ramallah league, and Muhammad Nasr. The charges have to do with events which occurred during Milson's tenure, including the attack on the University of Bayt Lahm, the killing of a citizen in the al-Khalil area, and the terrorizing and robbing of citizens in the Ramallah area. The charges mention that the previous civil administration had promised to investigate these accusations, but that it did not do so. Therefore, the current administration thinks that the files ought to be reopened. The accusations are aimed primarily against the previous civilian administration, in addition to prominent members of the leagues.

The final stage has begun for the leagues, despite the announcement by the Israeli authorities that they would hang onto them and the statement that it is necessary to supply the leagues with new, youthful faces. At the beginning of this August, the civilian administration announced that it was possible for residents of the West Bank to cross the two bridges over the Jordan without obtaining the agreement of the leagues, as had heretofore been the case. The occupation authorities had said it was necessary for everyone engaged in a transaction or desiring to travel to obtain the agreement of the leagues first. This was an attempt to tie the citizens to this monstrosity of an organization. The stripping of this authority from the leagues will decisively increase their domestic isolation from the Palestinian masses. This authority in particular has given the leagues a way to rob and pressure the citizens. Anyone wanting to conduct a transaction has had to pay the leagues materially, politically, or in both ways. Anyone who disagreed was forbidden to conduct any transactions, due to the pressure placed upon him.

### Where To?

The question today is not whether the leagues will survive or not, but when their final dissolution will be announced. Many believe that if agreement is reached on the appointment of new mayors, the role of the leagues will end. However, the appointment issue is meeting with powerful opposition. Therefore, the leagues may linger a little longer as a reserve, in case it is not possible to create a developed alternative to them in the current stage.

One noteworthy observation remains to be made: AL-MIR'AH published a statement in which it apologized for previous articles which were sharply critical of Jordan. The statement said that some people had exploited the fact that Dudin was in the United States. Dudin realized that his ties to the occupation were ending. Therefore, he began to search for a place to seek shelter.

12224

CSO: 4404/180

KUWAIT

BRIEFS

HEALTH COOPERATION WITH CUBA--Kuwait, 24 Dec (KUNA)--Kuwait and Cuba Saturday agreed on exchanging visits and strengthening cooperation in the field of health services. The agreement was made after meeting today between under-secretary at the Health Ministry Dr Na'il al-Najib and his Cuban counterpart who is currently visiting the country. [Text] [LD250443 Kuwait KUNA in English 1702 GMT 24 Dec 83]

CSO: 4400/108



FORMER WEST BANK MAYORS INTERVIEWED ON REAGAN PLAN, OTHER ISSUES

Cairo AKHIR SA'AH in Arabic No 2558, 2 Nov 83 p 15

[Interview with Muhammad Milhim, former mayor of Halhul, and Fahd Qawasimah, former mayor of al-Khalil by Hadiyah al-Sharbini: "A Frank Conversation With the Mayors of the West Bank: 'We Reject the 'Alternate Homeland'. The Government in Exile Is Being Discussed'"; date and place not specified]

[Text] As a way of expanding the dialogue between Palestinian leaders and officials and American institutions and officials, the Islamic Conference and the American University in Washington organized a conference on "The Search for Peace in the Middle East." Two Palestinian figures whom the Palestinian authorities banished after dismissing them from their offices were invited: Muhammad Milhim, the former mayor of Halhul, and Fahd Qawasimah, the former mayor of al-Khalil.

I met with these two Palestinian personalities and had a comprehensive conversation with them about the Palestinian-Jordanian negotiations and the results they had achieved, as well as the influence of the American presidential elections on the situation in the Middle East, the position of the Palestinian leadership on the Reagan initiative, and the question of how long opposition to the initiative would last.

Our conversation also dealt with the idea of setting up a temporary Palestinian government in exile and the position of the moderate wing within the PLO.

We also discussed the evaluation of the Egyptian position vis-a-vis the recent events connected with the Palestinians, as well as Egyptian-Palestinian relations.

The former mayors of Halhul and al-Khalil talked about the alternate homeland idea which some are putting forth. They stated their opinion frankly.

The Door With Jordan Has Not Been Closed

[Question] In the beginning, I said this to the mayor from the West Bank: The time has come for the American presidential elections. The Palestinians must move quickly in order to coordinate with Jordan, for if time is lost, will it not be difficult for the American administration to think about the matter during the election period?

Furthermore, was the door of dialogue with Jordan closed once and for all after the failure of the first set of talks between King al-Husayn and 'Arafat?

Answer First of all, I want to correct some concepts. Even before the beginning of the presidential elections, the United States was not serious about peace in the Middle East. It took no serious action to halt the Israeli settlement activity on the West Bank. This was conclusively demonstrated by the decision concerning the use of the veto in the Security Council session held last July to refute and condemn the construction of settlements on the West Bank.

America's policy is fixed. It does not change or alter in accordance with the elections. The policy of the United States is well known. It consists of supporting Israel politically, militarily and economically. All we want from the American administration is that there be some balance in its position vis-a-vis the Arab situation. This is what we have been striving for during the last few years, but we have not achieved it.

The former mayor of al-Khalil concluded his answer by saying: If the United States wants to achieve a result before the elections, it can do so. However, all America is trying to do is to carry out seriously what Israel wants. Consequently, no reconciliation with the United States has occurred, because it sees things from one point of view, not from two.

Fahd al-Qawasimah said: With regard to the second part of the question, Jordanian-Palestinian relations are long-term relations. They are firm and lasting. The unity of the Jordanian and Palestinian peoples is nothing new.

As for the Jordanian-Palestinian talks, although they stopped at a certain point, this does not mean that the door was shut in the faces of the two parties. Rather, each side is still interested in continuing the Jordanian-Palestinian dialogue. This dialogue is still a live issue for both sides. However, the situation which the Arab region in general and the Palestinians in particular are in keeps us from being able to move toward a clearer Palestinian-Jordanian relationship which would be better able to confront the coming phase.

At any rate, the Palestine National Council has backed the creation of these ties. Consequently, although the Jordanian-Palestinian dialogue is not officially proceeding right now, the door in front of it is still open and has not been closed.

#### An Initiative Supported by the Congress

Question However, American officials confirm that the Reagan initiative is a proper first step toward achieving the goal, which consists of the legitimate aspirations of the Palestinian people. Is Palestinian opposition to the initiative continuing in expectation of another, thereby causing the loss of more gains and time?

Answer by Muhammad Mulhim, the former mayor of Halhul As the American officials say, the Reagan initiative is the first step on the path of peace. That is, the achievement of the goals will derive from it. It is not essential for all the goals to be realized by this step. This is the American interpretation. We want that to happen, and we are not against these steps. However, the problem is a lack of trust in the realization of what they say. Why? Even if we ignore the fact that President Reagan neglected to mention either the Palestinians' right to self-determination or participation by the PLO, there was still no truth in what Reagan said. Moreover, the American position contradicts Reagan's suggestions in practical terms.

At this point, the former mayor of Halhul said: For this reason, I suggested at the conference that before the president of the United States puts forth an initiative, he should submit it to the Congress for approval. Consequently, if he offered this initiative after the Congress had confirmed and approved it, it would certainly meet with agreement from the Palestinians, for then we would not fear that the Congress would oppose it.

#### A Discussion of the Government in Exile

Question What position do the leaders of the West Bank take on the idea of setting up a temporary Palestinian government in exile? Can the moderate wing within the PLO under 'Arafat's leadership take a positive position on that issue?

Answer by Muhammad Milhim An exile government, of course, is meant to bridge the transition between a situation of occupation and one of independence. Even now, we still have not reached the beginning of the transition stage. However, if it is necessary in national terms, and if the interests of the Palestinian people would be served by setting up a government in exile, then someone must bring up the matter and it must be reported on, investigated and discussed on the basis of what would be gained or lost by setting up such a government or by not doing so.

I believe that the notion of an exile government has been discussed on the Palestinian level. However, it is impossible for a policy to be considered accepted by the PLO unless this has been affirmed by the Palestine National Council, for the Palestinians' decisions are generally not taken by individuals, but by institutions.

#### Acceptance of the Partition Resolutions

Fahd al-Qawasimah concluded by saying: We must accept the partition resolutions of 1948. I mean resolution 181. The Palestinian state must be declared and a government formed in accordance with that.

This is my point of view, but as my colleagues said, the final decision rests with our institutions. I want to realize this point of view, but that does not mean I will impose it.

Muhammad Milhim further explained these views:

The matter of accepting the partition resolutions depends on what is known as international law. It is a demand which the PLO has called for through the numerous speeches its leaders have given at the United Nations, especially Yasir 'Arafat's speech. The PLO considers the UN resolutions to be the basis of the solution. Therefore, it is logical for this opinion to be put forth by some judicious Palestinians. It would mean that we, for our part, accept international law and announce the creation of our state on the basis of this law, which has given us the right to do so.

Perhaps that would be the beginning of the realization of what we are striving for: Palestinian self-determination. Perhaps the world and the United Nations would begin to face their responsibilities.

This subject is being discussed and investigated now, but the final decision will be taken by the Palestinian institutions.

#### The Egyptian-Palestinian Dialogue

Question The Egyptian-Palestinian dialogue was going well during the Israeli invasion of Lebanon. How do Egyptian-Palestinian relations look now?

Answer by Fahd al-Qawasimah, the former mayor of al-Khali Something called a continuing exchange of points of view is going on between the Palestinians and Egypt. Attempts are being made now to return Egypt to the Arab map. We encourage Egypt to return to the Arab world.

Muhammad Milhim, the former mayor of Halhul, added to what his colleague said: During the Israeli invasion of Lebanon, the Palestinians opened a channel of contact with Egypt. Egypt did its part in full.

At the meeting of the Palestine National Council held in Algeria, the percentage of the Egyptian delegation was clear. The Egyptian delegation from Cairo was the biggest delegation. This clearly shows that no Arab leader or summit conference, in the East or the West, can erase Egypt or strike it from the Arab list.

Consequently, we hope that Egypt, with its historic and struggle-filled heritage, will only support the cause of the Palestinian people. Someday, things must develop in such a way that all the obstacles blocking Egypt's complete return to the Arab world will be removed.

Egyptian officials strongly defend the right of the Palestinian people to decide their own fate. Consequently, just as we say that the victory of Palestinian rights is inevitable, so it is inevitable that Egypt will return to the Arab world.

## We Do Not Accept the Alternate Homeland

**[Question]** What do the leaders and leading figures on the West Bank think of Israel's opinion that Jordan is an alternate homeland for the Palestinians? What is the current position of the Village Leagues with regard to cooperation with Israel in place of the legitimate leaders of the West Bank?

**[Answer]** Fahd al-Qawasimah commented on that with this clarification: The idea of an alternate homeland has been proposed by Israel. Sharon and his followers have said a lot about it, but not one Palestinian on the West Bank or elsewhere would accept an alternate homeland. The issue is not one of a place in which we live. Rather, it concerns the return to our homeland in the West Bank, Gaza and Jerusalem. Our problem is not that we want to have a flag outside Palestinian territory. Rather, we want to have the Palestinian flag and Palestinian identity on Palestinian territory. We will never accept the idea of an alternate homeland.

The former mayor of al-Khalil concluded by saying: With respect to the village leagues, the purpose of their existence is to keep the national movement from growing and developing. They are supposed to create a split within the Palestinian people by differentiating between the villagers and the town dwellers.

However, as is well known, the village leagues contained a group of agents. They were of no importance, even within the villages on the West Bank. When the Israeli occupation authorities began to sense that these leagues would not be able to harm the national movement, they began to attack the movement, expel the mayors, dissolve the town councils, and use other well-known means.

In the end, the village leagues had no role left to play. The Israeli occupation authorities began to shut them down, since they felt that the leagues had become more of a financial burden than a source of possible wholesale political services in the future.

## Junblatt Is Allied With Israel

Milhim criticized the position of Walid Junblatt, the leader of Lebanon's Druze, by saying: Walid Junblatt, who is allied with Israel, ought not to say a single word to Yasir 'Arafat, because he is not qualified to do so. His hand is unclean because he is allied with the Israeli soldiers in Lebanon. He does not have the right to form a front called the National Salvation Front, for he is as far from nationalism as one can be.

In the end, the plots to which the fedayeen under 'Arafat's leadership are exposed moved the Arab delegations to action. Otherwise, we would have seen more of what happened in Beirut last year, and there would have been rivers of blood and blood baths.

Muhammad Milhim concluded by saying: The root cause of the strike against the Iraqi nuclear reactor is the Palestinian issue. This is also true of what is happening in Lebanon now. If the Palestinian issue is resolved, then



all the secondary issues necessarily will be solved, and there will be no internecine fighting in Lebanon. Postponing the search for the solution to this issue means that what the Israeli invasion of Lebanon failed to achieve is being achieved now one way or another with support from some Arab and Palestinian elements.

As for Fahd al-Qawasimah, he concluded by saying: The Palestinian problem is a problem of a homeland. A people has been deprived of its homeland, although it neither committed a crime nor hurt anyone. The Palestinian people are being asked to give up their homeland. This is the concept which the United States still adopts. We are peoples with an ancient history and a connection to the land. The Egyptians, for example, have clung to the land for thousands of years.

We demand a just solution, not a compromise. There is no doubt that we need more conferences and symposia like the conference we took part in this time, which was organized by the Islamic Conference and the American University in Washington. The Arab-Palestinian dialogue with the United States, or with any other party which wants to talk, is essential, since it makes it possible to understand the core and basis of the Palestinian issue and inform public opinion in those countries about the issue.

12224

CSO: 4404/180

CONDITIONS IN CAMPS DESCRIBED

Kuwait AL-WATAN in Arabic 10 Nov 83 p 11

[Article: "The Arabs this Week: Al-Barid River and al-Badawi Camps; 30,000 Citizens of North Palestine Withstood in the Two Camps until Fighting Broke out between Fellow Feuding Palestinians"]

[Text] The estimated number of residents in the camps of al-Barid River and al-Badawi in Tripoli in north Lebanon is 30,000 persons. These are the two camps that were subjected this week to the effects of the first war of its kind. It is a war that is like a Palestinian civil war; it followed the model of [the civil war in] neighboring Lebanon.

Al-Barid River Camp is located on [the banks of] a river by that name. But that river has now turned into a mere rivulet at its last mouth after a dam was built at (Mount Turbul), an area that was mentioned last week in [connection with] the battles of feuding fellow Palestinians.

The area of the camp is not more than about 1 kilometer, [but] the number of the camp's residents exceeds 20,000 persons. At first the battles and the shelling were concentrated on this camp.

It was after 1948 that people came to live in al-Barid River Camp, which is located 17 kilometers north of Tripoli. The camp was established by the International Red Cross. Residents of the camp had come to it from (al-Qir'awn) and ('Anjar). In 1945 there were about 7,000 persons living in the camp. They were originally farmers who had been living in northern Palestinian villages, particularly in (Saffuriya) and (Tasa'sa') and in the villages of ('Amqa ), (al-Ghabiyah), (Sha'ab), ('Alama) and (Yashum). At that time the camp was made up entirely of tents. One of the camp's residents described what life was like during that period and said, "Life was hard. Snow would fall throughout the winter, and social life was closer to social life in the Middle Ages. Whereas the people of the Middle Ages had homes of stone, there was nothing in the camp but tents. The rest rooms in the camp were collective, and there were no partitions [for privacy]. There were innumerable harassments, and these were concentrated on people's incomes and on the sources of their livelihood. Camp residents did not have work cards, and the law did not allow anyone to work without these cards."

But conditions began to improve somewhat, and in 1955 the tents were turned to huts. After demonstrations and protests against the Relief Agency, camp residents

were able to get zinc and tin sheets and replace the tents that had become tattered 5 years after they were put up. The situation continued unchanged, or it rather got worse in the administration of President Sham'un, but then it improved again in 1959 with the administration of President Fu'ad Shihab. It was during Shihab's administration that the Siblīn Vocational Training Institute was opened; that school took in many students. Preparatory school students were also able to enroll in Tripoli's schools to continue their education. When those students graduated, many of them moved to the countries of the Gulf to work. As a result, the economic situation in the camp improved, and people began to turn to work other than hard labor. Businesses began to appear in the camp as people set up stores, workshops and other businesses even though the authorities were impeding the movement of people in the camp and restricting their free trade outside the camp. That caused matters to get worse and matters did get out of hand with the authorities more than once. The Union of Lebanon's Workers in the north had a hand in solving many labor problems.

Health services were minimal and confined to two hospitals: one for women and the other for men. Both hospitals, however, had a limited capacity. [Then], the Relief Agency began cutting down on its limited medical services, shutting down the two hospitals in 1962 as a means of applying pressure on people and forcing them to emigrate.

The situation remained unchanged till 1969 when Palestinian organizations began establishing health and education facilities and other services. In February 1973 these facilities were shelled by Israel, and they were then rebuilt. But the Israeli raids continued, particularly on the people's hospital. There was at least one raid a year on that hospital.

Recruitment and the development of political awareness were cultivated in schools where political and religious occasions were utilized to develop national feeling. The fact that camp residents joined in military actions goes back to before 1964 when the PLO officially came into existence.

Some Arab parties, particularly the Movement of Arab Nationalists, had played a part in that. The young men of the camp had received their training in that period in Syria, after its separation from Egypt, and in Egypt.

Last summer that camp was spared the effects of Israel's invasion of Lebanon, but it paid the price this year. A few of the camp's residents are responsible for the worst tragic chapter in the camp's history. Most camp residents moved to Tripoli, and it is likely that not all of them will be able to stay in the city. [Eventually] they will emigrate, and they would thus be carrying out the old hostile schemes, thanks to "those credit-worthy and courageous people."

#### Al-Badawi Camp

This camp is considered an extension of the city of Tripoli; it is only 3 kilometers away from downtown Tripoli. In 1948 people came to live in the camp from various villages in north Palestine. They came to the camp from (al-Buniyah), (al-Jish), al-Zahiriyah and al-Safsaf. Some came from Haifa and 'Acre. At first they went to Tripoli where they stayed in a very old building that was used during Ottoman times as an inn for horses and soldiers. That building was called

"Khan al-'Askar" [The Soldiers' Inn]. [Those refugees] stayed in that inn till late in 1955 when the building was destroyed by the flood waters of the Abu 'Ali River. Those people were moved to a new camp that was built by the Relief Agency in two stages. Until the recent developments about 10,000 persons were living in that camp which is considered more organized than al-Barid River Camp; its buildings are [also thought to be] better. It is the only camp where construction of rooms with roofs was allowed. At the time this had aroused fears that that permission had something to do with settlement projects.

Otherwise, public services in the camp were comparable to public services in al-Barid River Camp. But the proximity of the camp to Tripoli made it possible for camp residents to utilize city facilities and institutions. That was until 1969 when the PLO and the guerilla organizations established hospitals, schools and public facilities.

8592

CSO: 4404/191

RELEASED ANSAR PRISONER DESCRIBES EXPERIENCE IN CAMP

London AL-MAJALLAH in Arabic No 200, 10-16 Dec 83 pp 10-12

[Interview with Salah al-Ta'mari, leader of prisoners in Ansar POW Camp, by Salih Qallab; in Algeria: "Leader of Prisoners in Ansar Describes How Prisoners Left Prison Camp and How They Faced Palestinian Rift"]

[Text] "We had transmitters, and we used to broadcast three news bulletins a day."

"We utilized special means to exchange secret letters with our leaders on the outside."

"There were undercover agents in our midst, but they reconsidered their actions and repented their crimes."

Salah al-Ta'mari, leader of the Palestinian and Lebanese prisoners in Ansar Prison Camp related the story of the departure of those prisoners from the prison camp. He also related the background behind those negotiations which resulted in the release of those prisoners. In an exclusive interview with AL-MAJALLAH conducted in Algeria al-Ta'mari also related that prison leaders in the prison camp had transmitters which were used to broadcast daily news bulletins to the prisoners. Those leaders also issued news bulletins periodically. In addition, prison leaders had exchanged with Palestinian leaders on the outside secret letters about the negotiations which dealt with the conditions for the departure from Ansar. Al-Ta'mari revealed in this interview how the prisoners reacted to the Palestinian rift and to news of the battles that were fought in Tripoli between 'Arafat loyalists and the dissidents. The interview with the leader of the prisoners of Ansar follows.

[Question] Did you personally take part in the negotiations that were held about the prisoner exchange operation? How did you participate?

[Answer] We knew about the exchange operation from the first moment, and as a leadership committee of Ansar Camp we contributed to the question of the missing in action. It is known that one of the obstacles that stood in the way of the exchange operation was the problem of the missing. We know nothing about what happened to them since the beginning of Israel's invasion of Lebanon. There were direct telephone conversations from Ansar Camp; we talked about our leaders to determine the matter of the missing and to provide our leaders with the information that we have about them. In addition, we expressed our opinion on how the



exchange operation itself was to be completed. In addition to the direct telephone communications, there were continuous communications between us and our leaders with whom we exchanged secret messages that we sent by our own private means.

[Question] In your capacity as one of those who examined the reciprocal conditions regarding the prisoner exchange operation, to what extent [do you think] Israel has adhered to the application of these conditions?

[Answer] It has become well-known and obvious that the enemy did not apply all the conditions which had been agreed to. After boarding the planes, we discovered that the enemy had kidnapped some of our colleagues. The kidnapping had occurred on the road from the prison camp to the airport. It must be pointed out here that the manner in which we were transported from the prison camp to the airport did not enable us to observe the transport operation. Before our departure we had been scattered in more than one place. Some of us were in cells, and others were in an area called Wadi Juhannam [The Valley of Purgatory]. Some of us were in the new camps, and these are isolated from each other. In addition, Israel blindfolded all the prisoners before the operation began. This prevented us from discovering at an appropriate time that anything was wrong with the operation. This was how the enemy kidnapped some of our colleagues on the road, and we did not notice this until after we took off from Lod Airport or more correctly until we arrived in Algeria.

[Question] How was the transport operation from Ansar to Lod carried out?

[Answer] Before the transport operations began, the Israelis tied our hands with plastic bands, and they blindfolded us with pieces of fabric. Then they transported us on military vehicles from the camp to the airport in Ansar [sic]. From there we were transported by helicopters and by Hercules transport airplanes. There were some transgressions during the transport operations, and Israeli soldiers insulted our colleagues.

[Question] One of the conditions [for the prisoner exchange] stipulated that Ansar Prison Camp be shut down. Do you believe that Israel will carry out that condition?

[Answer] I do not believe that Israel will shut down Ansar Prison Camp. It might appear to do that for a limited period of time. But I do not think it likely that Ansar Prison Camp will go back to what it used to be because that prison camp was a disgrace to Israel. Many Israeli soldiers and some officers do not hide the fact that they are disgusted with the existence of this camp. It is a well-known fact that Ansar Camp has created a crisis among the Israeli soldiers themselves. Some of them used to refuse working in that camp. Therefore, I believe that the camp in its previous form is an experience that will not be repeated. But as long as Israel is occupying Lebanon, prison camps will continue to be open. These prison camps do not have to be in Ansar. The Israelis may set them up elsewhere in south Lebanon.

[Question] Were all the prisoners who were released Palestinians and Lebanese nationals only, or were there prisoners who were citizens of other Arab and non-Arab countries?

[Answer] We did not exclude anyone of the prisoners in Ansar during the prisoner exchange negotiations. Our exchange lists included everyone in Ansar regardless of his organizational affiliation and regardless of his citizenship. Therefore, Syrians, Egyptians, Turks, Kurds and Libyans were released with us. Fellow [fighters] from al-Sa'iqah and from the general command were also released with us. Of course, other people from all the other organizations were also released. Brother Abu 'Ammar insisted that the exchange operation include everyone. Therefore, our negotiating delegation insisted on that condition even though Israel's delegation tried to dodge it. Israel tried to hold on to some of our fellow prisoners from some Palestinian factions because of the circumstances that impeded the exchange operation of the two Israeli prisoners who were still being held by the Palestinian Resistance. When we felt that the enemy may turn this matter into an excuse to delay the exchange operation, we informed our negotiating delegation that prison camp leaders would volunteer to serve as hostages that the Israelis would hold until all the prisoners without exception were released. But this obstacle was overcome because our leaders insisted that the release operation include everyone without exception. Our leaders insisted that the Lebanese leave Ansar Camp first; Palestinian civilians would leave next; and the last group to leave would be the PLO fighters. And here let me reiterate that those who disappeared on the road did not belong to one organization in particular. They were from all factions of the Resistance. Among them were staff members of Fatah Movement.

#### Rejecting the Rift

[Question] What were the effects on the camp of the events occurring on the Palestinian scene, particularly the fighting in Tripoli? What was your attitude toward the rift?

[Answer] It must first be pointed out that all the intellectual and political tendencies [that can be found on] the Palestinian scene were in the prison camp. Of course we were not isolated from what was going on on the outside, particularly in the Palestinian Revolution. Accordingly, any change on the outside had either a negative or a positive impact on the camp. As far as the rift that occurred on the Palestinian scene is concerned, that rift was first met with some kind of satisfaction in the camp. We did not expect it to go beyond being a falling-out over the slogans that were proclaimed. We did not expect the dissidents to resort to weapons and to reinforce themselves [by seeking support from] this or the other regime against their comrades in arms. But let me explain here that from the moment signs of the rift began appearing on the Palestinian scene through this movement, we felt pain. But as far as we were concerned, the matter became grave when the intervention of some Arab parties in Palestinian affairs began to surface after having been hidden for a certain period of time behind the slogans of reform which had been proclaimed by the dissidents. This could have led to clashes even though the forces in Ansar were not equal. This means that 90 percent or more of the prisoners were against what was happening. In this case the 10 percent would have had no effect and no role. After matters became clear and it became certain that what was going on was an attempt to control the independent national Palestinian decision, we held an expanded meeting for all factions in the prison camp, and we adopted a combined resolution supporting national unity and the legitimacy of the PLO. We, the leaders of the prison camp, issued a series of bulletins and hand-written generalizations which were secretly

distributed to all prison camps, and expanded meetings were held to discuss their contents. In this regard I must mention that we had several smuggled transmitters, and we had a joint committee issue central news bulletins. In some instances there were more than three bulletins a day. We strengthened the notion that the principal enemy was the Israeli soldier who stands on observation towers, on tank turrets and outside wire fences. We stressed that no matter what, we must have no other enemy than that enemy. It must be pointed out that when we were in prison we did realize that we were not an effective ingredient and that our hands were tied in the struggle that was going on on the outside because we were prisoners and did not have our freedom. We were nevertheless able to be a positive and unifying force supporting the legitimacy and the unity of the PLO.

[Question] What specifically was your political position?

[Answer] We defined our political position exactly as I stated it to you. We supported the unity of the PLO. [It was our contention that] the unity of the PLO could not be maintained without preserving the unity of Fatah. We supported and we still support the independent Palestinian decision; we support the legitimate leaders who were elected by constitutional bodies; and we support the leader of this Revolution.

[Question] Did you inform the leaders of this position?

[Answer] Yes, we sent a number of letters to Brother Abu 'Ammar outlining this position. We also put that position into action. The distinctive thing in Ansar is that no one who assumed a position different from that of the majority was hurt. To be unequivocal and candid, [let me say] that this was not an easy matter, particularly in the final stages when the shelling began in the camps of the north. Many people who lived in these camps were in the prison camp, and we were afraid that those people may not adhere to a democratic dialogue. With regard to that matter we drew red lines, and we defined when a question was internal and organizational and when it was a national question. We all agreed that what was happening on the Palestinian scene was a national question and that everyone would be bound by a collective position on that matter. In this case neutrality would be an unforgivable crime, and personal revenge would be a most abominable crime.

[Question] Does this mean that you may join 'Arafat if the fighting in north Lebanon continues?

[Answer] First of all I would like to affirm that we were not separated from 'Arafat's leadership so as to rejoin it. We have been under 'Arafat's leadership, and we were taking instructions from him even when we were behind the [barbed] prison wires. How then can we not be with him now that we have our freedom and now that we have returned to our guns and our positions? I do not want to exaggerate, but I am conveying the truth. When we were in the airport we pledged to go to Tripoli right away to fight under the command of Brother Abu 'Ammar because he symbolizes our independent national decision and because he is fighting first and foremost to defend that decision. And now we are on call for Brother Abu 'Ammar and the Palestinian leaders. We go where they tell us to go, and we stay where they tell us to stay. Over a period of 2 decades our generation has learned a great deal from those leaders. We still think of them as our legitimate leaders

and, therefore, we refuse to have them infringed upon, particularly if they are being infringed upon by someone outside the legitimate Palestinian frameworks and by someone outside the scene of the Palestinian struggle. Those leaders who were exposed to over 250,000 shells a day in Beirut and who withstood this shelling and were not shaken by it deserve our respect and our obedience.

### Israeli Exploitation

[Question] Did the Israelis try to take advantage of what happened on the Palestinian scene to undermine your position in Ansar?

[Answer] The Israelis' attempts to undermine the steadfastness of the prisoners in Ansar never stopped. As far as the question of the rift was concerned, they used to spread false news about it since they thought that we did not know anything and did not have radios. They used officers and soldiers to plant fabricated news in our midst. But they did not succeed in what they were aiming at, and no clashes occurred. I will say this for the record, and I am assuming responsibility for what I am saying: there was never any clash in Ansar between two Lebanese or Palestinian factions. Yes, there were a few individual fights, but such fights were not politically motivated, and they had nothing to do with the organization.

[Question] With regard to the well-known tunnel operations and the escape from Ansar, what are your observations on this operation? As the person responsible for that prison camp, did you know about that operation?

[Answer] Four hundred Palestinian and Lebanese prisoners were supposed to break out in this operation. The tunnel you are referring to was not the only one. We dug about 30 tunnels in Ansar. At prison camp number 20 a tunnel was discovered. After that, Abu 'Awad, one of those who led the escape operation that you are talking about, contacted me and informed me that they had stopped the digging operation. I told them that that was a mistake, and I asked them to continue digging at maximum capacity. He told me that the oxygen in the tunnel had begun to diminish and that cases of asphyxiation were increasing. To continue digging we used to use a homemade kerosene lantern that was made in the camp to provide light in the tunnels. At a certain distance the kerosene began burning the oxygen, and that was causing cases of asphyxiation to those who were supervising the digging operations. Therefore, I made a considerable effort to obtain a small flashlight that would operate on small dry cell batteries.

Leaders of the prison camp had set down a complete escape plan. They had determined the names of those who were supposed to break out. As I told you they were about 400. Some, however, disobeyed instructions and broke out of prison before the set date. And some who were not supposed to break out of prison did. As a result, chaos and confusion resulted after only 75 [prisoners] broke out of prison, and the operation was consequently halted. The Israelis discovered the operation simply and by accident. One of the brothers who broke out dropped his bag on the ground, and he became involved with picking up his effects. That made the guard notice him: the operation was thus exposed, and the plan that was set for it failed.

[Question] Didn't you think of carrying out military operations against the



Israeli soldiers who were guarding you or against the Israeli administration of the prison camp?

[Answer] Actually, our attention in the camp was focused on two matters. The first had to do with the preservation of national unity among all trends and tendencies. The second had to do with preserving prisoners' high morale. We were very successful in that area, and that success enabled us to confront the oppression that was being practiced against us by the enemy. Some fellow prisoners thought of carrying out military operations against the leaders of the camp and eliminating them once and for all. But since such an action would result in an arbitrary, murderous massacre, we refrained from such an action because we were afraid for the thousands of civilians who were with us in prison camp.

[Question] How do you see this experience now that you are out of prison, after having spent about 1 year and a half in captivity?

[Answer] Managing the struggle in prison camp was not easy because there were military troops charged with the task of guarding us. These troops had been charged with a specific task: that of guarding [us]. This means they had nothing to do with investigations or torture. The prison camps are controlled by intelligence, and whoever is responsible for guarding the camps has an interest in having tranquillity prevail in those camps. The principal reason for unrest in the prison camps was the fact that intelligence was being gathered in them. Consequently, we were always trying to drive a large wedge between intelligence operatives and the military force which was charged with the task of guarding us. It interests me here of course to affirm that there is no difference between the army and intelligence. The enemy is one and the same and the mind that makes the Israeli decision is cold, cruel and merciless. This is certain. But I could not touch that soldier who burned the chair he was sitting on while we were in the interrogation pit at Ansar. He did that to make us a pot of tea. As human beings, therefore, we cannot look at this soldier the same way we look at another who shot at a group of prisoners, killed 4 and wounded 25. We cannot look at this soldier the same way we look at another who fired his rifle from a distance of 3 meters and shot one of our brothers in the head. I am not ashamed to say this. If I did not fear that harm would come to some of the soldiers, I would have mentioned some names. The soldier who used to steal his way to us to loosen our chains is one to whom we can only be grateful. I cannot forget the soldier who used to give us cigarettes and stand watching in terror and fear lest one of his superiors see him. But this does not mean that the central brain where decisions are made in the Zionist entity has relinquished its destructive Fascist course.

#### No Assassination Attempts

[Question] Were you subjected to assassination attempts in the prison camp?

[Answer] Not directly. But I do recall that gunshots were fired near me on three occasions. On one occasion I was talking to fellow prisoners in the prison camp from a high place. One of the soldiers pointed his rifle at my head, but fellow prisoners rushed quickly towards me and pushed me out of the range of his fire. Another time a soldier tried to shoot me, but an officer kept him from doing that.

[Question] We heard much about those who work undercover. Did you discover spies for Israel among the prisoners?



[Answer] Some people slipped into this activity at the beginning of the war. They had their circumstances. Some of those who worked undercover had chosen this course, not out of faith and conviction and not for money but rather as a result of the shock they felt from the destruction and the killing. They thought it was all over, and they began giving the enemy information. A small minority has continued to cooperate with the enemy, and they are now actually agents and spies. Others, however, have reconsidered their actions and proceeded to make amends for their offenses by joining us in the daily confrontation. When we first faced the problem of people working undercover, there were many rumors and statements about this person and the other working undercover. Accusations increased, and the enemy's intelligence contributed to that increase. To counter this destructive wave, we conducted a comprehensive survey and we came up with a specific classification: there was the agent who was a spy; there were those who dealt with the enemy for a period of time; and there were those who volunteered information. It was evident that all these people could not be looked at equally. As far as the first case is concerned, it may be said that it continues to exist outside Ansar Prison Camp. If this type of agent infiltrated Ansar, such an agent did so clandestinely and furtively and he has not been discovered. As far as the second case is concerned, it did exist. We agreed that we would not reckon with these people while in Ansar but that we would do so after we leave the prison camp. However, those who continued to deal with the enemy [after that] while they were in the prison camp were reckoned with immediately. Actually, the climate that we created in Ansar was a patriotic climate that had an enthusiastic and a revolutionary character which encouraged some of those who had faltered and weakened in the beginning to return to the ranks of steadfast fighters.

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## DETAILS OF PEST-CONTROL CAMPAIGN DISCUSSED

Doha AL-RAYAH in Arabic 27 Sep 83 p 2

[Text] The Rodent and Insect Control Department of Doha Municipality continues its efforts to fight these pests that are dangerous to the citizen's health and that are multiplying due to the lack of effective cooperation between this department's workers and the citizens.

Muhammad Shayr, head of the Rodent and Insect Control Department, has told AL-RAYAH that the department has divided Doha into seven sections, each with a health inspector and supervisor. Control efforts are carried out daily in all these sections, depending on the workload in other areas and the period set for fully ridding this area of rodents and insects. The control effort may at times last 1-1/2 months.

He said that the control effort is being now carried out in al-Muntazah area and that the control team consists of three workers. Several measures are followed in the control process, including the following:

To begin with, the worker goes to the homeowner to ask about the presence of mice and insects in the home. The home is then marked with a special sign known to the control workers. The owner is then asked about children in the house and their ages and about any livestock, such as cattle, sheep or poultry. Enough information is gathered, including information about holes in which poison may be placed, including manholes or other places inaccessible to children and livestock.

Quick-acting poisons are also placed at night in some houses where livestock is raised and are removed during the day. The Rodent and Insect Control Department director stressed the need for the citizens to cooperate in these cases, to keep children away from poisoned locations and to keep all fodder out of the reach of livestock when poisons are placed at night so that no harm will come to human beings or livestock.

He further noted that 60 percent of the citizens cooperated with the recent campaigns and that the department has begun to consider the idea of putting the poison in plastic bags made especially for the purpose so as to spare both man and livestock the risk of exposure. This process is being considered in the wake of the success of an experiment in the areas of al-Jisrah in al-Maqabir, in Fariq al-Ghanim, in al-Rumaylah and in al-Bida'.

## OFFICIALS TOUR ECONOMIC PROJECTS IN AL-RAQQAH, AL-LADHIQIYAH GOVERNORATES

Damascus AL-BA'TH in Arabic 23 Sep 83 p 5

[Article by 'Ali 'Abbud: "What Is in Government's Field Tour of Number of Economic Projects in al-Raqqah and al-Ladhiqiyah Governorates; Prime Minister: We Will Take All Measures To Implement Economic Projects on Schedule; Our Plans Call for Utilizing Our Water Resources and Curtailing Wasteful Flow to Sea; Services Offered al-Ladhiqiyah Governorate in 3 Years Exceed What Had Been Offered It Throughout 15 Years; We May Not Spend on Services Sector at Expense of Agriculture and Industry Sectors"]

[Text] At a Council of Ministers meeting, Dr 'Abd-al-Ra'uf al-Kasm emphasized the serious work steps he had noticed with the members of the ministerial delegation accompanying him during his visit to the work sites in al-Ba'th regulatory dam, in the Upper al-Salhabiyah canal and in the millet and cotton cultivation areas in al-Raqqah Governorate and the work sites in the 16 November, al-Thawrah and al-Safarqiyah dams in al-Ladhiqiyah Governorate and the steps taken to move to the modern Tishrin University this year, stressing the importance of completing these projects on schedule.

His excellency the prime minister a few days headed ago a ministerial delegation on a field tour of a number of important economic projects in al-Raqqah and al-Ladhiqiyah governorates, including a number of water dams, electricity projects and farms. After familiarizing himself with the advanced phases of these projects, the prime minister stressed the importance of the public sector in building the society of progress and socialism and gave the necessary instructions for implementation of the projects on schedule.

#### Completion of al-Ba'th Dam in 3 Years

Accompanying the prime minister on the tour were: 'Abd-al-Qadir Qaddurah, the deputy prime minister for economic affairs; Dr Kamal Sharaf, the minister of state for planning affairs; Engineer 'Abd-al-Rahman al-Madani, the minister of irrigation; 'Ammash Juday', the minister of agriculture; and Dawud Hidu, the minister for construction and development.

During the visit, the work sites were inspected, the observations of the engineers and technicians were heard and a lengthy meeting was held in the city of al-Ladhiqiyah to discuss public services.

It is indubitable that the government is well acquainted with these projects through the detailed studies presented to it from time to time. What the government sought through this tour, which is a continuation of previous tours, is an on-the-spot visit to see closely the stages and method of implementation and the obstacles hampering this implementation so that it may give the instructions necessary to solve all the problems and to surmount all the difficulties obstructing acceleration of the work tempo in order for the projects to be completed on schedule, especially the projects that contribute to achieving progress and prosperity and that lay down the foundations of the socialist structure of our country, as his excellency the prime minister stressed while paying an on-the-spot visit to these major development projects.

Upon reaching al-Raqqah Governorate, our first visit was to the site of al-Ba'th dam, which is being implemented by the Public Land Reclamation Company. This dam is one of the biggest economic projects in the country, with its costs amounting to 500 million Syrian pounds. This dam will help reduce the fluctuations that occur [in the water level] in the Euphrates Dam. These fluctuations currently reach 2 meters and al-Ba'th dam will reduce them to 50 centimeters. It will also generate electricity and irrigate large areas of land. Al-Ba'th dam, which will be put into operation within 3 years from the beginning of 1982 is located on a site that is 26 kilometers from the Euphrates River. Its total length is 3,070 meters and its width at the top is 10 meters and at the base 70 meters. The maximum height of the dam is 10 meters. The dam consists of 4 main parts:

The dam on the right shoulder, with a length of 400 meters.

The power plant, which is 75-meters long and contains three groups of horizontal turbines, each with a capacity of 25 megawatts. The plant will generate electricity amounting to 500 million kilowatt-hours annually.

The sluice, which has a length of 145 meters and 8 arched gates that permit a maximum flow of 853 cubic meters per second.

The dam on the left shoulder, with a length of 45 meters.

One of the significant consequences of al-Ba'th dam is the utilization of numerous agricultural and industrial projects in the Euphrates Basin.

After inspecting the advanced stages of completion at the dam, his excellency the prime minister heard a detailed explanation from Muhammad Khalayili, the director of the Land Reclamation Company, who reviewed the strides made by the company in implementing this vital project.

His excellency the prime minister stressed the need to exert utmost efforts, proceeding on the basis of awareness of the major results of completion of al-Ba'th, dam, which is being built by Arab hands with the know-how of Soviet experts.

#### Euphrates Irrigation Projects

The next stops in the field tour were in the main pumping plant that irrigates large areas of land in the central Euphrates Basin, in the cotton and millet fields of Kisra Farah Cooperative, in al-Barudah, in the Hittin farm of the pioneer project, in the Rabi'ah farm which is implementing a mechanized agriculture experiment, in the upper al-Salhabiyah canal which irrigates 17,000 hectares of reclaimed lands in Bi'r al-Hashm and in the first part of the main lower canal which will constitute the nucleus of one of the biggest Euphrates irrigation projects when al-Bulaykh Basin is reclaimed.

The areas included in the prime minister's tour are witnessing important projects. In addition to al-Ba'th dam project, there is a project to reclaim 10,000 hectares of land in al-Bulaykh Basin and the project for the main lower canal. Both these projects were initiated last year.

The first project calls for the reclamation of 10,000 hectares in section A of al-Bulaykh Basin which covers an area of 20,000 hectares, of which 10,000 hectares have already been reclaimed. Work is currently underway to reclaim the remaining part, also amounting to 10,000 hectares. The implementation period is 42 months and the cost is 387 million Syrian pounds. The cost includes the irrigation and drainage networks, grading the cultivable lands, opening roads and building the villages and utilities necessary for the residence of investors and workers.

The costs of the lower main canal in al-Bulaykh Basin amount to 400 million pounds. This project is also scheduled to be completed in 42 months. This canal is 52 kilometers long and discharges 85 cubic meters [of water] per second. It is an extension of the part called the starting point of the main lower canal. One of the immediate results of this project will be the irrigation of 45,000 hectares of land.

The length of the starting point of the lower canal inspected by the prime minister is 17.5 kilometers. This canal will be supplied with water from Lake al-Asad by gravitation. The total work volume in this canal amounts to moving 8.3 million cubic meters of earth, constructing 118,000 cubic meters of concrete and installing 30,000 tons of metal structures and equipment. The Public Land Reclamation Company is building the canal with Arab labor and expertise.

#### Work Session to Discuss Economic Projects:

After a day of field visits to the economic projects in al-Raqqah Governorate, his excellency the prime minister headed a plenary session at the governorate office. The meeting was attended by 'Abd-al-Qadir Qaddurah,



the deputy prime minister for economic affairs, by the ministers, by Muhammad Salman, al-Raqqah governor, by the secretary and members of the party leadership in the governorate and by a number of directors and engineers working in the projects.

At the outset of the meeting, the governor of al-Raqqah underlined the importance of field meetings because they indicate the interest in the country's economic mainstay and because they renew the motivation of all to shoulder the responsibility entrusted to them, adding: "We will continue the efforts to carry out the programs formulated by the party and the state."

Taha al-Atrash, the Reclamation Establishment director, spoke of the most important factors affecting the progress of work, saying that they are centered in machinery and in securing cadres, especially cadres with a secondary business certificate and cadres with a law degree. Moreover, the prefabrication plant needs quantities of 6-mm iron [rods].

Muhammad Khaliyili, the director of the Public Land Reclamation Company, discussed some of the obstacles hampering the work in the main canal and likely to delay the work for 8 months "but despite this, we will deliver the canal on schedule."

Dr 'Abdu Qasim, the general director of the Euphrates Basin Development and Utilization Establishment, reviewed the problems that need to be tackled, such as the expropriation of lands and the problem of the engineers assigned to work in the Euphrates Basin and then reassigned to other governorates after working for a brief time with the establishment. He also stressed the importance of supplying the establishment with radio equipment so that contacts may be established between the various sections and directorates to save time, especially since the projects are remote from each other. The important problem, in the view of Dr Qasim is, connected with the social services, such as roads, water, schools and shops. The administration centers, for example, have none of the above-mentioned services. Even though the Maskanah pumping plant will cost 400 million pounds, there is not a single house there. Therefore, "we hope that residential centers will be set up to be inhabited by the reclamation workers first and then by the utilizers. Services encourage people to live on the project sites."

At the conclusion of the meeting, his excellency the prime minister underlined the party's and government's interest in tackling all the obstacles and problems standing in the fact of implementation of the Euphrates Basin economic projects. He said that all the necessary measures will be taken to implement them and that the bill on the expropriation and redistribution of reclaimed lands will be issued shortly, adding that there is a clear and explicit decision that forbids the reassignment of any engineer already assigned to a public authority and that no assigned engineer may request reassignment.

## Implementation of Dam Projects in al-Ladhiqiyah

His excellency the prime minister began his field tour in al-Ladhiqiyah Governorate with a visit to the 16 November dam and irrigation tunnel project.

The irrigation tunnel extends from the greater northern dam for a distance of 7,300 meters and will irrigate 5,000 hectares of cultivable lands. It includes several plants to generate electricity and pump and divert water. The tunnel is being built by the Military Housing Establishment. As for the 16 November dam, it is being built on al-Nahr al-Kabir al-Shamali [the greater northern river] and is located 200 kilometers northeast of the city of al-Ladhiqiyah. The dam is 52 meters high and 854 meters long. The project also calls for the construction of irrigation and drainage canals to irrigate nearly 14,000 hectares of cultivable lands and to secure 30 million cubic meters of water as drinking water reserve for the city of al-Ladhiqiyah, in addition to regulating the river flow and to avoid the floods that have been causing damage to the lands adjacent to the river during the winter season.

Following his inspection tour of the sections and of the completion stages of the dam, Dr al-Kasm met and discussed with the project workers the difficulties facing the implementation so that measures may be taken to speed up the work tempo. He stressed to the workers the importance of the public sector's role in bolstering the national economy and building the society of progress and socialism, urging that the efforts necessary to insure continuation of the work be exerted so that the dam may be completed on time and according to the set schedule.

His excellency the prime minister then resumed his field visit and inspected the site proposed for the construction of al-Thawarah dam on the right-hand tributary of al-Sanawbar River near the village of al-Rawkhah. The site was proposed when the laboratory tests conducted to determine the soil's chemical and physical qualities proved its fitness for the purpose. The Ministry of Irrigation had contacted the authorities concerned to design the dam and the power plant to irrigate 10,000 hectares of cultivable lands in this area.

The third stop in Dr al-Kasm's tour was al-Safarqiyah dam in al-Qaradahah area. The initial storage capacity of this dam is scheduled to be nearly 11 million cubic meters, meaning that the dam will irrigate the cultivable lands adjacent to it.

## Working Session to Discuss Conditions of Services in al-Ladhiqiyah

His excellency the prime minister and his delegation concluded their tour in al-Ladhiqiyah Governorate with a plenary meeting at the governorate building. The meeting was attended by the deputy prime minister for economic affairs, by the ministers of planning, irrigation, construction and development, by the secretaries and members of the party's two branches

in al-Ladhiqiyah and the university, by the governor of al-Ladhiqiyah and by the chairmen and members of the city's and governorate's Local Administration Executive Bureaus.

His excellency the prime minister, the ministers and the participants heard a detailed explanation on the actual work conditions in the production establishments and the economic projects and the problems pertaining to implementation of the set plans for the services, for marketing the citrus crop, for school buildings, for the Tishrin University, for the agricultural roads, for the cultivation of fruit trees and tobacco and for drinking water.

The discussions of the members of the Local Administration's Executive Bureaus focused on the issue of building agricultural roads, which are almost nonexistent and thus have a negative impact on the agricultural production because the productivity of lands remote from roads declines or because such lands are left uncultivated, despite their fertility. One of the participants pointed out that the governorate needs 800 kilometers of rural roads and proposed that branches of Roadco be set up to fill this gap.

The Executive Bureau members proposed that a balanced policy be established for agricultural crops, that a minimum price be established to encourage their cultivation and that a substitute be found for the ammonium nitrate fertilizer, whose importation has been halted because the available varieties of the fertilizer are not suitable for the governorate's lands.

Some inquired about the sprinkler-irrigation system which cost 5 million pounds because there is still no plan to operate it even though it has been delivered and about the reasons motivating the construction of industries in a 4-hectare area in the 16 November dam area and demanded that a stop be put to the construction of such installations.

A member of the Local Administration's Executive Bureau brought up the issue of the state lands on which houses were built and orchards developed more than 40 years ago, saying that if the law is implemented, the fruit trees will be pulled out and that the issue needs a quick solution.

The other important point on which the conferees focused was the situation of the municipalities and of the village councils and of their cadres. The conferees said that all these councils need vehicles and need to have a decree issued to determine their cadres. They also said that there is a drain of engineers and technicians who prefer to work in the construction companies which pay higher wages. As for the cadre of sanitary workers in the municipalities, it was larger 10 years ago than it is now.

Some proposed that the volume of the equipment used in land reclamation be increased, since the salinity of the lands has increased and especially since more than 70,000 dunums of land have not been cultivated so far. They also demanded that a solution be found to the problem of drinking

water because a large number of rural inhabitants still get their drinking water from conventional sources that are unfit for drinking. After the questions and of a review of the condition of the governorate's services, his excellency the prime minister said: Most of the questions and discussions are centered on the services and all the demands are just "and I can say that they are even less than what should be available to any society." But the question is: Where and how do we begin?

What use would rural roads be before water is secured? Should we start with dams and with a real agricultural revolution or with offering services?

Dr al-Kasm stressed that the services must proceed hand in hand with the growth of the agricultural and industrial resources and that sound production levels must be achieved. The view of the various aspects of the economy is a total view in which advanced services are inseparable from advanced production activities.

He added that the reclaimed lands need a solution to the problem of determination and enfranchisement [as published] and we cannot begin a real agricultural revolution without a solution to this problem. A bill for a decree has been drafted and it will be presented shortly to the Council of Ministers to approve it. This decree will enable the local committees to solve the problems of cultivable lands, of inheritance and other problems.

We can proceed with the land reclamation projects without undermining the citizen's rights.

Dr al-Kasm further asserted that the services offered al-Ladhiqiyah Governorate in 3 years equal what it had been offered in 15 years. But it must be noted that there are studied plans. According to these plans, we may not spend heavily on the services sector at the expense of the industrial and agricultural production sectors. The governorate's dam projects need billions of pounds because our plans call for utilizing the country's water resources so as not to allow a single drop to go to waste. Presently, millions of cubic meters of water flow wastefully to the sea.

8494

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# TARTUS CEMENT PLANT PRODUCTION LINE INSTALLED

Damascus AL-BA'TH in Arabic 22 Sep 83 p 3

[Article: "Tartus Dispatch: Cement Plant's Third Line Put into Experimental Operation; 1,600 Tons Daily; Fourth Line to Be Put into Operation Shortly"]

[Text] Tartus--The third line of the Tartus Cement Plant was put into experimental operation last Thursday.

The ceremony held on this occasion at the project site was attended by comrades Murshid 'Abbas, the chairman of the branch office of the Labor Bureau; 'Aziz Sulayman, the head of the Economic Bureau; the comrade secretary and members of the party leadership of the Tartus city, the general director of the Tartus Cement and Construction Materials Company, the company officials and the leaders of the company's party and unionist organizations.

The ceremony was also attended by the officials of the Syrian Arab and friendly foreign firms constructing the civilian installations and the metal and electrical structures.

The representative of the foreign firms delivered an address in which he expressed his thanks and appreciation for the cooperation of the Tartus Cement Production Company officials in implementing this major economic project with all possible speed. The comrade chairman of the branch office of the Labor Bureau also delivered an address in which he asserted that putting this line into experimental operation will add new capabilities to bolster our national economy and will strengthen our country's stance of steadfastness in the face of the imperialist-Zionist-reactionary schemes and plots and its stance of building the society of progress and socialism.

This line's production capacity is estimated at 1,600 tons of cement daily. On the other hand, the plant's fourth production line is scheduled to be put into experimental operation before the end of the current year.



The Tartus Cement Plant, with its four production lines, is one of the biggest cement plants in the area and the fourth biggest such plant in the world, with a production capacity fo 6,400 tons of cement daily. The plant provides work opportunities to more than 2,000 skilled, administrative and ordinary workers.

The 'Amrit tourist camp has been put into operation in a ceremony at the camp site in 'Amrit, south of the city of Tartus.

Dr Nawras al-Daar, the minister of tourism, cut the silk ribbon to signal the inauguration and utilization of the project. The inauguration ceremony was attended by comrade 'Abd-al-Karim Bilal, the party branch secretary, by members of the party branch leadership and by the governorate's high-ranking officials.

The camp, built and operated by al-Karnak Company, includes 100 tents that can accomodate 400 people. It contains health and beach facilities, in addition to complete health units. Al-Karnak Company will transport citizens from all parts of the country to and from the camp. The camp's prices are considered symbolic and it is the only means for the citizens to enjoy the beauty of the beach and swimming.

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SYRIAN OPPOSITION, FATAH LOYALISTS FIND COMMON CAUSE

London AL-DUSTUR in Arabic No 308, 17 Oct 83 p 11

[Text] Diplomatic sources in the British capital indicate that one of the most prominent issues keeping Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad awake nights is the increase in activity by cells opposing the regime in Syria.

These sources give as example the operation which uncovered a coup attempt within the Syrian Army and thwarted it at the outset of this year. One of the results was the arrest of a large number of members of the army, due to the Syrian security apparatus' assignment of elements of Soviet intelligence who are proficient in the game of hiding their thorough knowledge of the Arabic language to work within the Syrian forces in direct contact with [these members].

The Syrian opposition cells--according to these sources--again increased their activities and made approaches to 'Arafat's loyalist elements in the PLO.

These sources also affirmed that secret meetings took place between the two sides, in which Abu Jihad met in Amman with representatives from the Syrian opposition with whom 'Arafat had talked previously in San'a', Tripoli (Lebanon), Tunis and Europe.

Among the issues which were discussed in these meetings, as the same sources indicated, were coordination between the two sides to smuggle arms from the Palestinian munitions depots in northern Lebanon into Syria through the village of Majdal 'Anjar on the Syrian border.

The Syrian authorities laid the blame on the Palestinians and the Syrian opposition for blowing up a large apartment house in Damascus at the beginning of August, and for shooting down two Syrian helicopters in August 6 miles from Damascus with Strela rockets.

The Syrian intelligence considers these rockets which downed the aircraft and which are used by Syrian Air Defense units to have been smuggled for the Syrian opposition by sympathizers within the Syrian Air Force.

## BRIEFS

TOMATO CANNING LINE--To develop the food industries and to process the entire tomato crop of Dar'a Governorate, the Public Preserves Company in al-Muzayrib has decided in its plan for the current year to install a new production line. The decision received strong interest from the authorities concerned and concerted efforts were launched to install the line. So far, more than 80 percent of the installation work has been completed. The line's production capacity amounts to 250 tons daily. There is also the old line which has a production capacity of 100 tons daily. When the new line is put into operation, the plant's total production capacity will amount to 350 tons daily. This capacity is enough for processing the local tomato crop in Dar'a Governorate. As a result, there is no longer any problem in marketing and disposing of the crop. [Text] [Damascus AL-BA'TH in Arabic 22 Sep 83 p 3] 8494

CSO: 4404/196

NVOI ASSAILS IRAN'S ANTI-SOVIET, ANTI-COMMUNIST POLICY

TA201655 (Clandestine) National Voice of Iran in Persian 1730 GMT 19 Dec 83

[Unattributed commentary: "The outcome of an Anti-Communist and Anti-Soviet Policy Is Capitulation to America and its Allies"]

[Text] Dear compatriots: With the Islamic Government's treacherous and barbarous onslaught against the patriotic Iranian Tudeh Party, the decline in the fortune of the Iranian people's popular, antidespotic, and anti-imperialist revolution began. The Islamic Government's superficial leaders, who under an Islamic guise have trampled on the democratic and anti-imperialist goals of our nation's revolution, are actually exerting efforts to crush the revolution. In order to deceive the people, they still talk of an Islamic Government that they used to portray once as a revolutionary government. But the difference between this Islamic Government—that the superficials and hypocrites who support the exploiters have now imposed on our people and homeland with a revolutionary government for whose establishment the people staged a revolution and made sacrifices—is enormous.

In many respects, the Islamic Government which currently has been established in our country is the implementor of policies of governments that are like the Islamic governments of Pakistan and Saudi Arabia—a policy supported by the U.S. and British imperialist and which is in line with them. It is not accidental that with the predominance of the superficial rightists in the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran, certain changes have occurred in the policy of U.S. imperialism and its NATO allies toward the Islamic Government. And also it was not without reason that in view of the 180-degree turn to the right by the Islamic Government, the Williamsburg Conference declared that one can and should support this government.

After the treacherous onslaught by the Islamic Government of Iran against the true revolutionary forces, headed by the Iranian Tudeh Party, at first disgusting television shows and then the stage managements of trial of combatant liberal men, who struggled for the interests of Iranian toiling people, were launched in the fake courts of the Islamic Government. By exploiting this situation, reaction and imperialism have proceeded, more hopeful than ever, to regain the positions that they had lost as a result of the Iranian revolution.

Because they fear the people, authorities of the Islamic Government cannot, for the time being, reveal their rapprochement with the West and America, but at any rate the proceedings of the trials of struggling and revolutionary liberal men in the fake military and Savakist courts of the regime, in which emphasis is being made on fanning the anti-communist and anti-Soviet climate, is an indication of the bitter fact that the regime is preparing conditions and the ground for the so-called necessity or establishing close relations with the West.

In a recent interview Mr Rafokh Negahdar, first secretary of the Fedaiyan-e Khalq Organization of Iran--Majority--revealed the activities of the Islamic Government against true revolutionary forces, and rightly said: Imperialistic espionage organizations have started effective cooperation with the intelligence organizations of the Islamic Republic of Iran. Operations by agents of Western espionage services played a significant role in the assault against the Iranian Tudeh Party.

Our homeland's people should focus attention on the bitter fact that the Islamic Government has offered the gains of the revolution generously, and is treading a course that will lead to the total loss of these gains and to the re-establishment of imperialist domination in our country. Hostile propaganda against the true friends of the Iranian Revolution, particularly socialist countries headed by the Soviet Union, which have always aided our homeland's people in the struggle against British and U.S. imperialists, is aimed at fulfilling the evil and Satanic goals of exploiter, imperialism, and reaction.

In confirmation of this fact, we again quote Mr Farokh Negahdar who said that in any case at present true revolutionaries throughout the world have learned that an anti-Soviet and anti-communist policy is one side of the coin, the other side is a policy of both compromise with and capitulation to U.S. imperialism.

Yes, the Islamic Government in which supporters of exploiters, whether turbaned or unturbaned, as well as elements of the former regime, such as the Fardusts, have managed to gain control of sensitive affairs, is speeding frantically on a path of capitulation to imperialism and violation of the gains of the Iranian people's revolution. Our homeland's revolutionary people are vigilantly watching the Islamic Government's change of direction toward rapprochement with the West and America, and with revolutionary alertness are exposing the treachery of the turbaned and unturbaned leaders of a government that supports the arrogant and the social parasites, and are revealing their Satanic aims, and will act in unison to save the Iranian revolution from the joint plot of these traitors to the revolution.

CSO: 4640/74



NVOI ASSAILS IRAN'S SUPPORT FOR AFGHAN REBELS

TA271548 (Clandestine) National Voice of Iran in Persian 1730 GMT 26 Dec 83

[Unattributed commentary: "The Ominous Fate Awaiting Supporters of Afghan Counterrevolutionaries"]

[Excerpts] Dear compatriots: As reported by NEWSWEEK, the Reagan administration has decided to substantially increase its financial assistance to the fugitive Afghan brigand and murdering bands for the purchase of weapons and arms. As a down payment, Reagan has allocated \$100 million for this purpose. NEWSWEEK pointed out that during the next year it is expected that U.S. aid for the purchase of arms for the so-called Afghan Islamic Mujahidin, namely Afghan bandits and killers, will increase to \$425 million.

Thus by providing and equipping Afghan brigand bands with modern weapons, America intends to escalate its undeclared war against the independent country and liberated people of Afghanistan.

The fact that U.S. imperialism is constantly striving to crush the Afghan revolution, that it interferes in the affairs of Afghanistan contrary to all international principles, mores, and standards, and that it is dragging the people of this country in dust and blood with the aid of mercenaries clothed in Islamic garb, is something that even the Americans themselves do not deny. But what has attracted the attention of all world public circles is that the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran which claims to struggle against imperialism is actively participating in this plot by U.S. imperialism, together with Ziaul Haq's American regime and similar regimes.

In order to make it clear to a number of our naive and deceived compatriots, we should point out that the government which currently has assumed power in our country is not the one which the people wanted to establish in Iran with their democratic and anti-imperialist revolution. This government, irrespective of its hollow claims with regard to struggle against imperialism, is a government that supports social parasites, aristocrats, and privileged classes. In foreign policy it openly and overtly pursues an approach which in many respects is favored by America and its allies. The policy of Iran's Islamic regime with respect to democratic Afghanistan is a confirmation of this claim.

Iran's present regime is no less hostile than America with regard to the Afghan revolution and the revolutionary gains of the people of Afghanistan and the popular government of that country. The reason for this, too, is clear. Above all, the reason for hostility by the Islamic Government of Iran toward democratic Afghanistan should be sought in the fact that, contrary to the Islamic Government in our country, the revolutionary and popular government of Afghanistan has undertaken and is undertaking practical reform measures in the interest of that country's toiling and liberated people.

In short, despite all plots of the enemies, whether U.S. imperialism, the region's reaction, or the fugitive counterrevolutionaries, the Afghan Government and people are engaged in building a progressive and prosperous society, and can be a model for subjugated nations in all countries of our region. Hostility toward the Afghan people's revolutionary gains by America, regional reaction, expelled Afghan feudalists, and major capitalists, as well as by the Islamic Government in our country, stems from this.

An Islamic Government that has talked and continues to talk so frequently of its being revolutionary and anti-imperialist, in practice supports and backs bandits, killers, and counterrevolutionaries who, with U.S. aid, drag innocent Afghan people in dust and blood, plunder them, and set fire to schools, hospitals, homes and even mosques, and who carry out all these black and criminal deeds for the sake of allegedly promoting Islam. Rulers of the Islamic Republic of Iran, who have exploited Islam as a mask to conceal their antipeople and despotic nature, by suppressing all forms of freedom in our country, are now participating more impudently than ever in criminal deeds--deeds that are favored by America. However, these gentlemen are little aware that the ominous fate of their predecessors, who at one time traversed this path, is awaiting them as well.

CSO: 4640/81

NVOI CONDEMNS IRAN'S PROLONGATION OF GULF WAR

TA162030 (Clanestine) National Voice of Iran in Persian 1730 GMT 16 Dec 83

[Unattributed commentary: "The Iranian People Condemn the Fanning of War Hysteria"]

[Text] Dear compatriots: As is apparent to everyone, the leaders of the Islamic regime are not in the least thinking of ending the destructive war-- a war which everyday sees the spilling of the blood of the best sons of our homeland as well as more destruction and devastation. All their efforts are being exerted at prolonging this intolerable war, and are resorting to various ploys and ruses to justify the continuation of this destructive war. As they have shown and are showing in practice the shedding of the blood of this country's toiling people, the squandering of the country's and nation's wealth, and the devastation of the country's towns, hamlets and villages does not bother them one bit. As they themselves are openly saying, they intend to continue the war until the downfall of Saddam in Iraq.

When at the beginning of June 1982 our homeland's combatant and brave people gained a great victory by liberating Khorramshahr from the U.S. aggression of Saddam's regime, the true forces of the revolution and the million-strong masses expected the government of the Islamic Republic of Iran to end the destructive war in light of the cease-fire proposal as well as the proposal of peace on the basis of the 1975 agreement by the Iraqi Government.

The true forces of the revolution, headed by the Iranian Tudeh Party, in this stage of the war cautioned leaders of the Islamic Republic of Iran that a dangerous imperialist plot is being hatched. They told government figures of the Islamic Republic of Iran that enemies of the Iranian revolution, led by U.S. imperialism, want to drag Iranian forces inside Iraq, and impose a long war of attrition on the Iranian nation. The true forces of the revolution repeatedly declared their intense opposition to the war's prolongation, but unfortunately government figures of the Islamic Republic without paying heed to these warnings, and by linking the war's destiny with that of Saddam, presented the issue of Saddam's downfall as the main condition for ending the war.

Up to now Ayatollah Khomeyni has repeatedly declared with complete frankness that he wants the war to continue until the establishment of a so-called Islamic Government in Iraq. Hojjat Ol-eslam Rafsanjani and Hoffat Ol-eslam Khamene'i constantly talk of the need to continue the war until complete victory and the establishment of an Islamic Government in Iraq, and exhort the toiling Iranian people to continue the imposed war and to become martyred on the path of this futile war, even at the cost of having millions of people sacrificed and Iranian cities and villages destroyed.

The propagation of the war has acquired such an extensive dimension that on orders of the gentlemen even composers of the Islamic regime, in order to fan the war hysteria, are composing war music and broadcasting the tune of "war, war until victory" from the voice and vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran. Authorities of the Islamic regime are talking of Iran's development and progress in the shadow of the war. In an interview with KEYHAN newspaper, Mr Banki, minister of state and head of the plan and budget organizations, said: War caused constructive movements in this country, and in my opinion was has always been a factor for economic and industrial progress in the world.

The Iranian people are right who--in view of the destructive results of the imposed war of attrition, and in light of the indifference by leaders of the regime of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the dangers posed to the existence of our homeland by this war--are demanding an end to the war, and consider any sort of propaganda in favor of prolonging the war as a dangerous and calamitous act.

CSO: 4640/72

IRAN

TEHRAN DEPUTY DISCUSSES IRAQ WAR, TUDEH TRIAL

LD131319 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 13 Dec 83

[Excerpt] Our correspondent's report on preagenda speeches at today's Majlis meeting: The first speaker was Fakhreddin Hejali, the deputy for Tehran. He alluded to the abortive unholy alliance between the Eastern and Western arrogance, aimed at cutting off the lifeline of Muslims, recalled the colonial history of the British, French and American policies in exploiting Muslim nations and their insidious attempts to crush Islamic uprisings and revolutions. He then emphasized: The colonialists realized that the awakening of the Muslim nation would bring in its wake an end to their plunderings.

Referring to support by certain so-called Muslim governments of the region for the archcriminal of history, Saddam Husayn of Iraq, and their criticisms of the Islamic Republic of Iran for refusing to accept an imposed peace, he said: If they believe in Islam, then one must state that there is no question of Arab or non-Arab in Islam. If, on the other hand, they believe in Arabism, then why is it that they do not condemn the massacre of Arab Muslims in Lebanon and occupied Palestine?

The deputy for Tehran at the Majlis stressed: the Region's governments must wake up and realize that they cannot continue their rule by relying on the power of blasphemy. Those who [word indistinct] are themselves warmongers. They have provided an aggressive and warmongering individual with billions of dollars. We consider all these people accomplices in these crimes and shall not accept any peace proposal from anyone or any organization.

He then referred to the nonsensical statements by the propaganda trumpets of the East about the trial of the leaders and members of the treacherous and defunct Tudeh Party and their open confessions concerning their treason and espionage, adding: These trumpets [referring to numerous talks and commentaries by Moscow in Persian] are not allowed to interfere in the internal affairs of our independent and revolutionary country. The punishment undeniable right. We are fully prepared to protect this right anywhere.

CSO: 4640/71



# TEHRAN COMMENTS ON ALLEGATIONS OF INVOLVEMENT IN KUWAIT EXPLOSIONS

LD231512 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0400 GMT 23 Dec 83

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. We draw your attention to this week's program devoted to propaganda reactions to the explosions in the American and French dens of espionage in Kuwait.

After the victory of the Islamic revolution in Iran when the idol of the satanic powers' invincibility was smashed and when, more significantly, the various dimensions of the crimes by imperialists and their lackeys were revealed by Muslim Iranian revolutionaries, contrary to the wishes of world arrogance the bells of freedom of most oppressed nations--especially in Islamic countries--began to toll and the light of hope flashed across the hearts of the deprived and enslaved nations who had no hope of salvation. These nations discovered that, despite the satanic indoctrination of the big powers, their release from the claws of blood-thirsty oppressors who dominated them is not so difficult or so impossible. This is why immediately after their awakening they started their Islamic movements and, thanks to God, so far despite the many difficulties and obstacles which imperialist agents place before these liberating Islamic movements the sound of the crushing and destruction of these great obstacles one after another brings joy to the hearts of friends while adding to the fears of the oppressors.

Of course, the leaders of world imperialism have used all their propaganda ability to distort these genuine movements, and in various ways they are trying to portray them as: first, being instigated from abroad; second, as being acts of blind terrorism; and third, as limited and controllable. In this connection, one can refer to many examples including the revolutionary executions of Al-Sadat and the accursed Al-Jumayyil, the killing of a large number of American and French marines in Lebanon, and recently the explosions in the American and French dens of espionage in Kuwait.

The reaction of imperialist propaganda organizations toward all these revolutionary acts which have been carried out by heroic martyrdom-seeking Muslims who support the Islamic revolution has followed a uniform pattern. However, after the explosions in American and French dens of espionage in Kuwait a new dimension was added to their propaganda effort, namely their unexpected confession to the expansion and influence of the Islamic revolution in the countries of the region; in fact, they had no choice but to confess this fact.

While the Zionist mass media are busy perpetrating allegations of Iranian involvement in the explosions, Reagan--the symbol of corruption and decadence of the century--takes these allegations concerning Iran's involvement in the explosions in Kuwait as proven, and in front of the eyes of the world he meekly begs the Iranian Government to control these so-called terrorist activities. In this way he wishes to justify in advance his future crimes in the Middle East.

To try to portray these revolutionary acts as acts of terrorism is one of the main aims of these propaganda loud-speakers which they repeat in various forms. Of course, every one except the agents of imperialism know full well that the recent moves in the region are in no way acts of blind terrorism. On the contrary, these moves are genuine and pursue a certain goal because they are directly aimed against the bases of corruption and conspiracy of imperialist leaders who falsely pretend to favor peace and security in the region.

As officials of the Islamic Republic of Iran have repeatedly emphasized--and we again repeat their assertions--because of the contradiction which exists between world arrogance and the liberating Islamic ideology, from the beginning right up to now the Islamic Republic of Iran has always announced its support for all antiimperialist movements throughout the world and will continue to do so. In the same way, throughout this period imperialist agents have not for a moment ceased to continue their incessant battle against Muslim Iranian revolutionaries. However, contrary to the allegations of Zionist-imperialist reporters and commentators, this does not mean that the Islamic Republic of Iran is directly involved in the recent events, because the war which the blood-sucking imperialists have imposed upon the Muslim and struggling Iranian nation is still in progress. If we wish to deliver blows at imperialism we can do so on these fronts and there is no need for us to go any further. In the past, too, we have delivered the biggest blows upon the servile forces of imperialism on these fronts, and we shall continue these blows in the future, God willing.

CSO: 4640/77

IRAN

FORMER PREMIER AMINI'S MESSAGE TO KUWAITI AMIR REPORTED

GF161834 (Clandestine) Free Voice of Iran in Persian 1500 GMT 16 Dec 83

[Text of message sent by Dr 'Ali Amini, former Iranian prime minister and president of the Iranian Salvation Front [Jebhe-Nejat-e Iran], to the Amir of Kuwait--date and place not given]

[Text] In the name of the suppressed people of Iran and on behalf of the Iranian Salvation Front, I wish to express my deep loathing of the recent bomb planting incident in your country which resulted in the injuring and killing of innocent people. Unfortunately, as in the case of similar explosions in the recent months in Beirut, the name of Iran has cropped up in the context of the source responsible for this catastrophe.

I wish to inform your excellency that the peace-loving Muslim people of Iran are not responsible for the criminal actions and behavior of the Khomeyni regime. This regime, has from the time of its coming into power trampled upon the real norms of Islam and has unleashed fear and murder on Iran and has disturbed the (?peace and security) of this region in the world. As your excellency is aware, the Iranian nation is seeking ways and means for the deracination of the (?mullahs') regime, because it is confident that as long as the so-called Islamic Republic continues, the Iranian nation will remain (?the victim) of (?repression), suppression and strangulation of the country and the world will continue to witness even more crimes and terrorist actions similar to those in Kuwait and Lebanon.

I request your excellency to accept my deepest sympathy in this regard on behalf of the Iranian nation.

[Signed] Dr 'Ali Amini, former prime minister and coordinator of the Iranian Salvation Front.

CSO: 4640/73

IRAN CLANDESTINE COMMENTS ON ELECTIONS IN ISLAMIC REPUBLIC

GF201742 (Clandestine) Free Voice of Iran in Persian 1500 GMT 20 Dec 83

[Unattributed commentary]

[Excerpt] All governments of the world announce themselves as legal and the result of the national will. In free countries of the world the opposition accepts the system but disagrees with the techniques of the government and offers its own version instead. However, do all the governments of the world enjoy legality and support of their own people? Putting aside free countries of the world, which accept an opposition and accept freedom of political activities, we are faced with totalitarian and dictatorial regimes.

In this instance we do not intend to discuss the degree of dictatorship in each but it should be said that to save face, dictatorships encourage puppet opposition parties in order to legitimize their claims of their own legitimacy and freedom of political activities. All of the Iranian people know the answer to the question about the nature of the system in today's Iran. Iran today has a one-party system which does not consider its own legitimacy as one stemming from the national will but as a result of religious canons and decrees, which according to religious mythology, has been the domain of the imams and their offspring and not decreed by the Koran or the Lord. Even though there is no historical proof of the truth of such religious myths, the leaders of Tehran even add the name of the Prophet, Koran and the Lord to that of the imams and even consider their single-party regime the result of the votes of 99.5 percent of voters! What were the conditions of the Islamic referendum? Does a fascist regime which considers itself appointed by God give a dime about the vote of the people who are creatures of God? Does a single-party regime which objects to opposition pay any consideration for social and individual rights? Does a dictatorial system based on falsified religious mythology give a damn about human rights which negate the dictatorship of Faqih [reference to Velayat-e Faqih]?

In today's Iran a dictatorial, single-party, fascist, illegitimate, and anti-national regime is in power. This government lies in the name of God, tortures in the name of the prophet, tramples the rights of humans in the name of the Koran, and murders people in the name of the Shi'ite movement. This

regime attaches no value to any popular vote and only raises issues such as elections, votes of the people, and selection of Majlis deputies in order to come out of its international isolation and solely to deceive the people at home who have become aware about a Majlis whose alleged foundation is Islam. When the vote of the Iranian people has no value for the regime of dictatorship of the Faqih then would people participate in elections? Will they go to ballot boxes? Will they witness the dismissal of the opinions of an aware nation by the regime?

We do not believe that the informed and wise people of Iran will go to the ballot boxes and vote for the charlatan representatives of Khomeyni's regime when the dictator says that he will smack everyone in the mouth!

CSO: 4640/75



IRAN CLANDESTINE REVIEWS MAJLIS DEPUTY'S SPEECH

GF112000 (Clandestine) Radio Iran in Persian 1330 GMT 11 Dec 83

[Text] The Nowshahr Majlis deputy this morning spoke about vice, corruption and the availability of narcotics in the Islamic Republic in a very critical speech. He confessed that the use of narcotics among the youth has become quite open and that vice is rampant across the country.

The deputy from Nowshahr, who was delivering a preagenda speech, asked the officials of the Islamic Republic about the source of the drugs and the reason why their use has become an ordinary daily event now. He suggested the reappointment of Sadeq Khalkhali to head the narcotics department. He said: I understand that the deputies will object to the reappointment of Sadeq Khalkhali, he can be appointed through legal means and under the supervision of the organizations of the Islamic Republic so that he can teach the addicts, knowing his forcefulness, such a lesson that they no longer would dare use narcotics.

The Nowshahr deputy added: It is only through terror that the Islamic Republic can stop the spread of addiction and Khalkhali has the right qualifications.

We note that during the time Khalkhali headed the drug addict court he put 200,000 Tumans taken in fines into his personal account and refrained from giving either the government or the Majlis any account of this. The issue of the money taken by Khalkhali was repeatedly raised by the Majlis deputies and Hashemi-Rafsanjani during one open session asked him to offer some explanation about the whereabouts of the fines. Khalkhali in turn said anytime Rafsanjani informed the Majlis of what he had done with the \$200 million he had been given in cash by the government to buy arms, then he would also offer a reply.

During the same session today another speaker confessed in his preagenda speech that government goods are currently fetching incredible prices in the black market. Noting the general poverty and the continued increase of inflation in the country he [words indistinct].

He said that the government is repeatedly borrowing money from Markazi Bank to cover budget deficits. This is very dangerous. We remind you that the government currently owes Markazi Bank \$55 billion. One of the blights of the Islamic regime for Iran has been the continued borrowing at home and abroad to cover the budget deficits. The government's borrowing at Markazi Bank means printing and circulation of new money which increases the cash available and the demand for it. If internal production does not increase at the same time prices go up and the regime is forced to increase imports. This is why the Islamic regime is forced to increase oil sales due to the pressure of inflation so that it can import goods and services from other countries through the currency it earns this way.

CSO: 4640/70

TEHRAN REVIEWS RUMSFELD ROLE, BAGHDAD VISIT

GF240813 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0445 GMT 24 Dec 83

[Unattributed commentary: "Rumsfeld's Trip and U.S. Policy in the Middle East"]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. The U.S. special envoy Donald Rumsfeld ended his trip to various capitals in the Middle East last week and also held discussions with Italian Prime Minister Benito Croxi in Rome. Even though Rumsfeld is acting as replacement for Philip Habib and Robert McFarlane, and his main mission is superficially about the Lebanese issue, his suspicious trips to various capitals, especially Cairo, Riyadh and Baghdad, alongside of the recent developments in the region, show that the mission is not limited to the issue of Lebanon alone but that it encompasses U.S. policy in the region. In other words, the United States is not longer reviewing the Lebanese issues separately from others, but is using the matter as a bridge to deal with all the issues of the region, from the Palestinian issue to the war imposed against the Islamic Republic of Iran. A look at the course of recent U.S. policy developments and Rumsfeld's mission shows that the Islamic region is pregnant with a number of events within the framework of U.S. aggressive plans. This may take various political or military dimensions.

Ronald Reagan, in a speech early last week, said that the American forces will leave Lebanon under two conditions: first, if foreign forces are leaving Lebanon and when the government of Al-Jumayyil has control over the entire country, and second, if the situation becomes totally chaotic in Lebanon.

The latter part of Reagan's remarks, which exactly match K' singer's remarks, show that the issue of Lebanon's division still exists and when Reagan talks about the possibility of total chaos in Lebanon, then it means that the United States has at least reviewed such a policy and maybe the reason for U.S. military presence in Lebanon is for the sake of reaching the last stage of division of Lebanon. The remarks created an uproar in Lebanese political circles to the extent that Reagan attempted to modify his earlier remarks in his last press conference. He stressed this time that the American forces will stay in Lebanon until all foreign forces have departed and the country has become peaceful through the expansion of the control of Al-Jumayyil's government.

These contradictory remarks by U.S. officials show another fact besides portraying their goals and plots in Lebanon and the Islamic region. That is, the U.S. ruling circles have reached a deadend as a result of the resistance of the Islamic forces and heavy blows dealt against the body of the Western interventionist forces in Lebanon on the eve of U.S. elections and are thus facing serious obstacles and problems in furthering their goals. Thus, the issue of the ties between the situation in Lebanon and the entire situation of the region, especially the situation created as a result of the expansion of the Islamic movement. Thus, Donald Rumsfeld goes to Egypt, Saudi Arabia, and Iraq following his tour of Jordan, Syria, Lebanon, and occupied Palestine. Apparently he was faced with questions and criticism in Cairo and Riyadh concerning the strategic pact between the United States and the Zionist regime. According to the officials of the Egyptian regime his explanations were satisfactory and yet Kamal Hasan 'Ali goes to Washington in a hurry carrying Husni Mubarak's message for Reagan. Rumsfeld's explanation in Riyadh was that the flood of U.S. aid for the Zionist regime and the strategic accord between the two sides is nothing new and will not be directed against the Arab countries or allies of the United States.

The truth shows that the reactionary Arab regimes, which are referred to as U.S. friends and allies, have no affect on U.S. decisions and in this respect cannot even consider themselves U.S. allies. In truth they are like agents who carry out all the orders and plans of the master. Otherwise, how is it possible for Reagan to sit down with Shamir and Arens in Washington and decide about their regional strategy and their involved plans without any consultation with the so-called U.S. allies in Arab countries? We see that the United States does not attach many character or value to these "allies." It is not clear how they stand such demeaning and how they can answer their nations. The truth is that the United States has managed to eradicate a great deal of the differences between these regimes and the Zionist one and make them conclude that the real danger to them does not stem from the Zionist regime and its expansionist plans for the Arab and Islamic region, but that the real danger is the Islamic Revolution in the region and that they have no alternative but to play along with the issue of Palestine and the Lebanese crisis in order to be able to concentrate on the issue of the danger of growth of Islamic philosophy in the region, which is an equal threat to the United States, the Zionist regime, and the servants of the United States.

This is when the issue of Donald Rumsfeld's trip to Baghdad comes to mind since Saddam's regime is acting as the tip of the spear against the Islamic regime and against the Islamic Revolution and in U.S. opinion, all forces should back this weapon. All other remarks about the severance of U.S-Iraqi relations, resumption of diplomatic ties, and continued U.S. neutrality in the imposed war are solely to put up a false front and divert the public opinion of the Muslim nations of the region from the real U.S. plot in operation in the Islamic region. Who does not know the fact that the war imposed by Saddam against the Islamic Republic occurred on the basis of the demands of the United States and its allies and that Saddam in this respect is carrying out U.S. plants? Direct contact between the regime of Saddam and the United States is not new. Contacts between ('Esmat Katani), Saddam's representative to the

UN, and U.S. officials and delegates, and the meeting between Tariq 'Aziz and Shultz, the trip by U.S. delegations to Baghdad and direct and indirect U.S. aid to Saddam's regime are not hidden to anyone.

The United States and Saddam's regime have never really had any need for visits such as Rumsfeld's trip to Baghdad in order to coordinate with each other. Therefore, Rumsfeld's trip to Baghdad is mainly a show to bolster the reactionary Arab regimes of the region and also to supposedly bring Saddam's regime out of its isolation on the issues of Lebanon and Palestine. At the same time the open support of the United States for Saddam is supposed to put Syria under pressure.

CSO: 4640/78



IRAN CLANDESTINE ON ILLEGAL CASH TRANSFERS

GF111934 (Clandestine) Free Voice of Iran in Persian 1500 GMT 11 Dec 83

[Text] Akhund [derogatory term used to describe Iranian clergymen] Azari-Qomi, the head of the Khomeyni regime's organization for currency smuggling, left London for Paris. According to our correspondent in Paris and the Persian weekly IRAN-E AZAD, Akhund Azari-Qomi is charged to purchase a building in Paris to set up a so-called center for Islamic propaganda on behalf of Khomeyni's regime. The center is to carry out terrorist activities on French soil under the veil of Islamic propaganda.

Azeri-Qomi is also the person responsible for checking the vast accounts of the mullahs including those of Khomeyni and his son Ahmad in reputable European banks. According to this report, Azari-Qomi left Tehran for the United Kingdom about 2 months ago look into the banking affairs of the mullahs in British banks. Apparently he also made a deposit in pound sterling equivalent to 40 million Tumans in his own personal account.

Azari-Qomi has established a currency, carpet, antiques and art treasure smuggling network with the aid of an Iranian living in Kuwait named Naji Gholam. To date he has smuggled items valued at hundreds of millions of dollars out of Iran. Our correspondent adds: Haji Gholam who is an Iranian with a Kuwaiti passport recently purchased a building in London for 210,000 pound sterling and handed it over to the Khomeyni regime. With the agreement of the British Government, the building has become the first theological center of the Islamic Republic in London. The address is 358 (Midale) Street.

CSO: 4640/68

POPULATION, FOOD PROJECTIONS REPORTED

Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 8 Dec 83 p 8

[Text]

LAHORE Dec. 7: Pakistan's food requirements will rise by over 161 per cent by year 2000. If the present population growth rate persists.

The rise will be 127 p.c. by then if the growth rate is brought down to 1.8 per cent from the present 2.9 p.c a year, as planned by the government.

The country will save 6.41 million tonnes of food annually by bringing the population growth rate down to 1.8 per cent by 2000, according to official estimates.

Pakistan's population, according to 1982-83 statistics stand at 88.26 million, which will go up to 147.66 million by 2000.

Total food requirements at present stand at 27.2 million tonnes a year, which will shoot up 71.10 million tonnes in 2000.

However, at the growth rate of 1.8 per cent food requirements by 2000 will equal 61.80 million tonnes.

The present wheat and rice requirements are about 12.3 million and 3.4 million tonnes which are

expected to be 22.65 and 6.14 million tonnes respectively by 2000.

The country uses 1.7 million tonnes of other foodgrains at present and the requirements will go up to 3.07 million tonnes by 2000.

Pulses, vegetable oil and meat needs at the moment are estimated at 0.7, 0.5, and 0.9 million tonnes which will go up to 1.15, 1.07, and 1.9 million tonnes by 2000.

Milk consumption will rise to 18.85 million tonnes and at the planned growth rate of 1.8 per cent to 17.18 million tonnes by 2000.

Vegetables and fruit requirements stand at 2.7 million tonnes each which rise to 7.47 million and 5.25 million tonnes respectively by 2000.

Sugar consumption will go up to 2.92 million tonne from the present 1.3 million tonnes and fish needs will double in the next 17 years.

As many as 3200 million eggs are used in the country at present and this demand will rise to 8623 million by 2000.—PPI

CSO: 4600/213

## ADMINISTRATION CRITICIZED FOR INCREASE IN ESSENTIAL COMMODITIES' PRICES

Lahore VIEWPOINT in English 8 Dec 83 pp 7, 8

[Article by "Linesman" in the "Between the Lines" column: "Rampant Prices"]

[Text]

IN DISREGARD OF persistent bureaucratic denials and Ministerial evasions, the rampant prices of almost all essential commodities, particularly food, have begun to reach back-breaking levels. The cost of goods and rates of services continue to spiral upwards steadily — unhindered by any restrictive Government policy.

In fact, many official decisions, inspired by the refurbished version of the outmoded laissez faire doctrine, seem geared to maintaining a high-price economy. The latest step in this direction was the announcement of a steep increase in the selling price of vegetable ghee, which, unfortunately, is now part of the average Pakistani's staple diet. The price has been raised by a whacking Rs. 2.80 per kilo, or nearly 30 per cent. The fact that rumours of such a spurt had spread some weeks ago permitted the hoarders to rake in huge profits, and the artificial scarcity thus created has allowed some shopkeepers to exact payment at a higher rate than that contemplated by Authority. The Industries Minister has explained that an increase in the import price of soya-beans and palm oil had made the hike unavoidable, because a commensurate increase of Government subsidy would have pushed budgetary deficits to intolerable heights. Hence, the people must pay more for vegetable ghee, as well as for a large number of other items promptly affected by the contagious price rise. And no one is

impressed by the promise that when world prices of these oils decline, the price of Pakistani ghee will follow.

**Boosting inflation**

The process of boosting inflation, while talking glibly in terms of checking it, began a long time ago. Whether the master-plan was devised on the advice of indigenous experts or the directive of our foreign loan-masters, every major economic step taken in recent years has pushed prices up, with the result that the cost of living seems to have got completely out of control. Take one example. After a public show of resistance to IMF's straightforward demand for devaluation of the rupee, this came through the back-door method of delinking the rupee from the dollar instead of open revaluation of our currency. The Minister's forecast that the exchange rate would not be adversely affected — that the cost of our imports and the debt burden would not increase — had a hollow ring and was soon disproved. Earlier, when international oil prices were rising constantly, corresponding increases were ordered by Government in many sectors; but when world oil prices started coming down, the law of gravity did not operate in Pakistan. The cost of every item or commodity under Government control has risen, sometimes slowly, sometimes with

shocking speed. For transport, electricity, gas or water, the people are being asked to pay more and more. And all future plans indicate that this trend will continue without abatement.

### Cheap energy

In the energy sector, for example, the stress on nuclearisation of plants can only mean that rates will continue to rise, apart from the dangers that Western countries are already facing of pollution resulting from risks involved in the disposal of nuclear waste, leakage, etc. There is a great deal of talk about investigating cheaper sources, gas from refuse, utilisation of solar energy, establishing a large number of small hydro projects in areas like Kaghan where this is easily possible, or greater and better use of fossil fuels, but much of this remains mere talk. It is not easy to know why such plans do not mature. Could it be that there is lack of profitability for the planners, the contractors and contract-givers, etc.? Or a lack of patience in making and carrying out projects in a style that may not be particularly grandiose but which will serve our purpose with less foreign aid and greater safety in every sense?

### Other sectors

A similar situation is faced in other fields. Over the last few years, the prices of wheat and rice have gone up with every season, generally in the name of guaranteeing a fair return to the farmer. However, little has been done to promote higher production and encourage the farmer by improving the availability of inputs and introducing the countryside to the modern age by spreading a network of pukka country-roads or taking electricity to the villages. Then, in an increasingly free market, meat has become a luxury because its cost is prohibitive for the vast majority of our people. But even the involuntary legion of vegetarians do not find it easy to obtain a substantial diet at reasonable cost. Vegetable prices fluctuate haphazardly, mostly upwards and often goaded by permission to export.

Seemingly, our policy-makers are determined to maintain a free economy, where those who cannot somehow cope with the inflation-ridden economy are free to starve. Islamabad's converts to monetarism do not seem to realise that even in advanced countries, like the United States and Great Britain, this policy has resulted in impoverishment of a large section of the people; in many American cities soup kitchens have been set up by charitable organizations to keep people properly fed. For an economically backward country like Pakistan, such policies can only spell disaster for a wide section of our people whose incomes are fixed and remain fixed despite the high-price structure. Additionally, the vast increase in money circulation often means that too much money is chasing a diminishing quantity of goods, giving prices a further unnatural spurt. Whether or not these funds are being employed usefully, the induction of large sums of money unrelated to a rise in indigenous production can only lead to a further imbalance in the price structure.

### Losing race

It also seems plain that the controllers of our economy do not seem to realize that not every citizen of Pakistan has a cousin in the Gulf region, sending back funds to subsidise high living here; not every citizen is a bureaucrat able to increase his perquisites in accordance with his needs; and not every Pakistani is corrupt or engaged in such lucrative activities as smuggling or trafficking in heroin. The vast majority of our people are restricted to incomes that always lose the race with fast-rising prices. A little more thought must, therefore, be given to their plight by policy-makers. The cushions of all sorts they talk about protect many people — but not the most hard pressed.

Lastly, let the Government realize that the people have shown tremendous patience with its economic policies. Even a former member of the military regime has expressed surprise and almost taunted the people by saying that in accepting the current price of onions docilely, they have shown lack of self-respect. The decision-makers must not put our people to more painful tests — lest their patience begin to run out.

VEGETABLE SHORTAGE: AGRICULTURAL POLICIES EXPORTS FAULTED

Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 12 Dec 83 p 4

[Editorial: "Major Folly in Regard to Minor Crops"]

[Text] If man does not live by bread alone, he does not eat bread alone, not even a poor man. The media in Pakistan has made him aware of the need for a more balanced or nutritious diet. But the government's approach to food has rather traditional, and it has been concentrating on wheat to meet the internal needs and on rice for exports. So when the pulse crisis hit the country two years ago and prices shot up 300 to 400 per cent within months the official explanation was that it had not been giving attention to minor crops.

The same casual official approach has prevailed in respect of onions and potatoes. When export of onions, potatoes and other vegetables were permitted last year we warned through these columns that such exports could lead to sudden shortages and soaring prices at home from time to time. Such exports, we stressed, could be made without doing serious damage to the hard pressed consumers at home only if the government kept a sharp eye on the supply position and suspended the exports whenever a shortage was anticipated. The other alternative was to make imports as easy as the exports so that the market could find its balance. Instead the government thought of exports as a one-way street despite the fact that, unlike in respect of cotton, wheat or rice, advance crop estimates are not easy in respect of vegetables which grow within a short time. And yet the officials concerned did not watch the supply situation of vegetables while the exports continued. As a result, within weeks the price of onion shot up to Rs 19 per kilo, while potatoes went up to Rs 8 per kilo from around Rs 2.

Even when the prices were shooting up and public protest increasing, the officials, including Sheikh Ishrat Ali, Adviser to the President on Internal Trade, did not care to look into the causes carefully or scientifically. Instead they came up with the conventional explanations they resort to readily on all such occasions. They said there had been too much of exports. And when formal exports ceased, they alleged vegetables were being smuggled to the Gulf states in boats. They ascribed the shortage to the interruption of supplies from Sind due to disturbances there, although during the disturbances the prices rose only marginally. And lastly they were blaming the hoarders and profiteers, who undoubtedly exploit all shortages in the country



and create a real crisis to profit by it enormously. And now they maintain there have been delayed sowings in Sind and Baluchistan, and the Frontier crop has also been damaged. What has been happening is that instead of making scientific efforts to estimate production levels and the real cause of the shortages and removing bottlenecks the officials resorted to casual guesses and efforts at explaining it away in the usual complacent manner. Hence no official efforts were made to arrange for imports in good time. If they had been the prices would not have shot up so much.

The government has now permitted import of onions without customs duty and sales tax. But not much may be imported as the official forecast is that the new crop would reach the market by the middle of this month. Secondly, it takes time to arrange for imports at reasonable prices if they have not to come from India. What the onion crisis, like the earlier pulse crisis, underscores is that the government cannot be casual about the minor crops and permit unrestricted exports too, without heed to the volume of internal production, supply levels and prices. It has to adopt a serious approach to such crops instead of concentrating on a few crops and forcing the people fend for themselves in respect of all others.

CSO: 4600/211

## FORUM DISCUSSES HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS

Lahore VIEWPOINT in English 15 Dec 83 pp 14, 15

[Text]

The main Human Rights Day function in Lahore was held on Saturday under the aegis of the Human Rights Society of Pakistan, under the presidentship of Mr. S.M. Zafar. Mr. Khurshid Mahmud Kasuri read a lengthy paper on the subject.

Tracing the emergence of the concept of human rights, Mr. Kasuri stated that the first step towards something close to a catalogue of rights emerged in the Middle Ages in 1215 in the form of the Magna Carta. In later centuries the Magna Carta became the basis of fundamental rights not only in England where it had originated but was incorporated in the American Declaration of Independence (1776) and the French Declaration of the Rights of Man in 1789 during the French Revolution. In the course of the 19th and 20th centuries, the example set by the United States and France in adopting bills of rights guaranteeing individual freedom and liberties was followed in the written constitutions of the newly independent States of Asia, Africa and Latin America. An important landmark in protecting human rights at an international level was the Covenant of the League of Nations. This was followed by the Charter of the UN and it was as a result of the efforts made by the Commission of Human Rights which worked under the General Assembly that the Universal Declaration of Human Rights was adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations on 10th December, 1948.

**In Pakistan**

Mr. Kasuri, while speaking on the state of human rights in Pakistan, referred to gross violations by both civilian and military governments. However, according to Mr. Kasuri, violation of human rights by the present military regime has been far more widespread than by any other previous government. These violations have been caused by the erosion of the power of the Judiciary to protect fundamental human rights. A series of constitutional amendments and Martial Law provisions passed since 1977 and culminating in the March, 1981, PCO have virtually ended the independence of the judiciary. The jurisdiction of the civilian courts has been restricted to an unprecedented extent by the loss of all powers to review military court proceedings and executive decisions. Political prisoners are no longer protected by the right of habeas corpus. Besides an independent Judiciary, a free and independent Press is considered to be a protective shield against human rights violations. The most glaring example of harsh treatment of the Press is the summary dismissal from service of ten eminent journalists.

Universities, which act as the breeding ground for the ideals of freedom, equality and fraternity, have naturally attracted the attention of the regime. In Pakistan today the concept of academic freedom on university campuses is non-existent. Three highly respected professors of Quaid-i-Azam University, Islamabad, after undergoing mental and physical torture have been awarded severe sentences. These teachers are Professor Jamil Omar,

Dr. Saleem and Professor Tariq Ehsan. More recently three eminent professors of the Punjab University were served with show cause notices. One of them, Mr. Omar Asghar Khan, an eminent Cambridge economist and son of Air Marshal Asghar Khan, has already been dismissed under a Martial Law Order.

Mr. Kasuri then went on to quote from Air Marshal Asghar Khan's recent book, 'Generals in Politics', incidents of torture of both men and women. He also quoted at length from Amnesty International's 1981 Report on the state of human rights in Pakistan. As instances of human rights violations, Mr. Kasuri mentioned the prolonged detention of Air Marshal Asghar Khan, Nawabzada Nasrullah Khan, Rasul Bakhsh Palejo, Benazir Bhutto and thousands of political workers.

### Guidelines

According to Mr. Kasuri it has been observed that declaration of emergency and suspension of Fundamental Rights are frequently resorted to and basically directed at strengthening the power of the ruling junta at the expense of the political opposition. While referring to the violations of human rights in Pakistan, Mr. Kasuri suggested certain guidelines to safeguard the fundamental and human rights of citizens. As a first step he suggested that all political parties arrive at a gentlemen's agreement, after an elected government assumes power, regarding an amendment to the Constitution with respect to the declaration of emergency. Mr. Kasuri was of the view that such a feeling was shared by the component parties of the MRD. He called for a larger consensus involving parties outside the MRD as well.

Mr. Kasuri also spoke about the

national security implications of human rights violations. Pakistan, he said, has the dubious distinction of being the only State to have been 'dismembered as a result of humanitarian intervention' since the end of World War II. He said that Authority did not appear to have learned the lesson and its attitude to recent events in Sind had been superficial and the proposed solutions totally bureaucratic and self-serving.

Mr. Kasuri referred to increased cooperation between countries of South Asia and called for greater cooperation between organisations striving to safeguard human rights in the respective countries of the region. He suggested that efforts be made to set up a South Asian Court of Human Rights on the pattern of the European Court of Human Rights and the Inter-American Court of Human Rights. These courts can hear cases filed against human rights violations by governments in contravention of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Syed Afzal Haider, President, Lahore High Court Bar, was gravely concerned over the plight of prisoners, both political and criminal. He said that all prisoners were inhumanly treated by the jail authorities.

They were humiliated beyond measure. "Things have only gone from bad to worse in recent years so much so that prisoners are not even allowed to offer prayers in congregation." He regretted that prisoners are not treated according even to that Jail Manual which was issued by the British.

Sameena Rehman complained of discrimination against women. She said that in case the proposed Law of Evidence was enforced, women would be socially relegated even further. Maulana Akbar Saqi, Prof. Waris Mir and a number of others also spoke on the occasion.

# LEADERSHIP VOID EXAMINED

Lahore VIEWPOINT in English 15 Dec 83 pp 9, 29

[Article by Ayaz Amir: "It's a Matter of Changing the Balance of Forces"]

[Text]

MY FRIEND Dr. Mohammad Waseem of the Quaid-i-Azam University has written a very lucid series on 'Politicians of Pakistan' in 'The Muslim' in which he has profiled politicians like Nawabzada Nasrullah Khan, Khan Abdul Wali Khan and Air Marshal Asghar Khan (all Khans if you will have noticed the coincidence). He has said many things about them but has failed to mention, perhaps out of respect, a crucial point, namely, that the politicians of Pakistan, irrespective of the interest Gen. Zia takes in their welfare, are by and large a defunct breed.

## Overly optimistic

Dr. Waseem seems to suggest that these politicians still have a future ahead of them. The concluding sentence of the profile devoted to Air Marshal Asghar Khan reads: "The time may be approaching for him to address wider economic and political issues and in so doing attempt to get his leadership endorsed by the masses". To judge by Air Marshal Asghar Khan's performance to date, this appears to be an overly optimistic estimate. Having fallen repeatedly for the manoeuvres of the military government, he has only succeeded in mortgaging his future. The same holds true for the others. Is it easy to forget that as late as 1979, Mr. Wali Khan was ascribing all the problems of the country to the evil of 'Bhuttoism', while Nawabzada Nasrullah Khan

was permitting his partymen to sit in the cabinet, and Air Marshal Asghar Khan was thinking that the 1979 elections (aborted to no one's surprise) would be a prelude to his prime ministership?

To expect after such a record that the masses would endorse anyone's leadership is to put more faith in their simplicity than they deserve. It is not enough to say that the political parties or their leaderships were duped for, as Marx pointed out in his study of Louis Napoleon, "a nation and a woman (or a politician for that matter) are not forgiven the unguarded hour when the first adventurer that came along could violate them". Indeed a person who has changed positions as often as the Air Marshal, instead of looking to the future, had better heed Lucretius's advice to fickle souls that they should cast aside their business "and before all else seek to understand the nature of things".

## Son of the system

The contention that being an 'insider' who has held 'core' positions in the military and civilian bureaucracies, Air Marshal Asghar Khan would be considered a legitimate contender for power by the Establishment belies its true nature. He may be a true 'son of the system', as Dr. Waseem correctly states, but then among the leading Pakistani politicians who isn't? The point to note rather

is that the Establishment does not co-opt retired people into its ranks. Once squeezed out of the 'active' list one is as good as dead. It was Air Marshal Asghar Khan's mistake on this score which led him to base his actions in 1977 and thereafter on the assumption that Mr. Bhutto's elimination from the political field would facilitate his own accession to power. The nation as a whole has paid dearly for this rather soft-headed approach to politics.

### **'Love for democracy'**

Dr. Waseem's profile has inspired several people to write for and against Air Marshal Asghar Khan. Since most of the ground has been covered, there is not much point in going over it again. But one thing which has to be mentioned is his reputed 'love for democracy' which Dr. Waseem has made much of. It may indeed be of a very high order but one suspects that it is the sort of love which inspires servicemen when retirement overtakes them prematurely. The transmigration of souls which one witnesses in Gen. Chishti's conversion to the cause of democracy or its forceful advocacy by Air Marshal Rahim Khan (in his article on Asghar Khan) are of this kind. While Gen. Chishti's services to democracy are now part of history, Air Marshal Rahim Khan, too, has not been backward in its defence. His parting of the ways with Mr. Bhutto, which cost him his PAF command, had little to do with democracy and everything with his desire to be recognised as the power behind Mr. Bhutto's throne. It is not a charitable thing to denigrate a politician who has been under house arrest for over four years but, after the ruination of the last six-years-and-a-half, the idea of Air Marshal Asghar Khan as a democratic supremo somehow fails to inspire.

### **Thoroughly discredited**

In fact, so thorough has been the process of discrediting that barring a few exceptions there are few putative leaders of public opinion who do inspire anyone. One can run a comb through the entire list of Pakistani politicians and come up only with scraps of dandruff. Many of the

PPP's leaders have managed to safeguard their reputations but only because a wise fairy had told them not to desert the party; otherwise, if the real story of their valour were to be told, one would start taking a kindlier view of Maulana Kausar Niazi.

What we have been witnessing during the last six years is the eclipsing of the old guard. The total concentration of power in the hands of the military government and its unwillingness to shed any of it has served to nullify most of the constitutional verities which were accepted as fixed landmarks in the political canvas of the country. To the extent that the emergence of these new realities has devalued the concept of 'legalistic' or constitutional politics, to that extent they have given birth to a different kind of politics, the inevitable price that has to be paid when normal political activities are curbed.

### **But one episode**

As for the disturbances in Sind, they constitute but one episode in a drama whose drop-scene has yet to take place. So it is premature to conclude that the movement there has 'tapered off'. In fact it is true to say that it has been a dialectical improvement on the protests which took place in early 1981 soon after the MRD's formation in Karachi. At that time, it was hard to imagine that this disparate alliance could mount a serious challenge to the regime, but we have seen that when the circumstances were right it did. In the same way, the prospects for an upsurge in the future may look bleak just now, but it could arise sooner or later since the underlying problems which precipitated the present crisis have not vanished. And since it may build on past lessons and experience it could be more serious from the standpoint of the regime. But it will not be led by the present discarded lot whose world is slowly coming to an end. Other forces are likely to be in command which have learnt the hard lesson that political change is a matter of changing the balance of forces. Recent events can only strengthen this realisation.



# JI LEADER HAILS JATOI'S STATEMENT

Karachi DAWN in English 22 Dec 83 p 12

[Text]

KARACHI, Dec 21: The "positive approach" shown by Mr Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi (in his Eid-i-Milad message) should be reciprocated by the Government in the larger national interest, Mr Mahmood Azam Farouqi, a leader of the defunct Jamaat-i-Islami, said in Karachi today.

In an interview, he said Mr Jatoi, in the defunct PPP leadership, was reputed to be moderate and judicious in handling political affairs and did not believe in the politics of violence.

Accordingly, he added, the Government should better take note of Mr Jatoi's assurances of peaceful conduct of a nationwide election, and abide by the unanimous demand of the political parties.

Mr Farouqi referred to the statement of Mr Abid Zuberi, Central Information Secretary of the defunct NDP, from Hyderabad Central Jail, endorsing Mr Jatoi's Eid-i-Milad call, and said that it also lent strength to moderate elements of

the MRD in their desire to shun violence.

The JI leader urged the Government to announce schedule for election on a party basis so that the situation in Sind became normal and the way was paved for peaceful conduct of general elections.

Meanwhile, Mr Mubashir Qaisrani, a leader of the defunct Pakistan National Party (PNP), criticised Mr Jatoi for making an appeal to the Government for the release of political prisoners.

Mr Jatoi's latest "overture for peace" to the Government was inconsistent with the declared policy of the MRD (namely, the removal of Martial Law) and also the strategy of the MRD Central Action Committee to court arrest (and not to seek release) for the restoration of democracy.

Mr Jatoi's Eid-i-Milad message will come up for consideration at a meeting of the MRD Central Action Committee, scheduled to be held in Karachi on Friday next.

CSO: 4600/219

# SENDING SINDHI POLITICAL PRISONERS TO BALUCHISTAN JAIL QUESTIONED

Lahore VIEWPOINT in English 1 Dec 83 p 3

[Letter by Ansa Kausar Perveen Siddiqui in the "Letters" column: "Why to Machh?"]

[Text]

THOUSANDS of political workers including members of the Sind People's Students Federation have been arrested since the MRD's 'Save Pakistan Campaign' was launched on August 14. They have been tortured in prison, where many of them still are. Political workers have been sentenced to be flogged. They have been fined and jailed because they want democratic rule under the 1973 Constitution. The proud people of Sind had not piloted the Pakistan Resolution so that they could be brutalised in the new country. The repression let loose on the people of Sind has no parallel in history. I want to tell the rulers that if they wish to maintain national unity and integrity, they must bring this repression to an end and hold general elections at the earliest.

Recently, the following political prisoners were transferred to the Macch Jail in Baluchistan: Makhdum, Khaliquzzaman, the Central Secretary-General of the Sind People's Students Federation, Ayaz Soomro, Ghulam Mujtaba Jatui, Mir Ejaz Talpur, Ghulam Mohammad Mahuto, Ahmed Nawaz Awan, Razzak Bhutto, Mushtaq Bhutto, Sattar Baccani, Koshan Shah, Manzoor Wasan, Rahim Bakhsh Wasan, Pir Mazhar, Zafar Leghari, Imam Baksh Gorani, Dr.

Ibrahim Jatui, Fazil Rahu, Ghulam Qadir Bhutto and Agha Saifuddin Pathan. All these gentlemen were taken to Macch Jail under strict security from the Central Jails in Sukkur and Hyderabad.

Macch Jail is notorious throughout the country for its repressive character. In fact, it is known as Pakistan's Kala Pani - the name given to the penal colony set up by the British in the Andaman-Nicobar islands. Now these detenus are forbidden to receive visitors under orders from the Sind Governor. Many political prisoners have lost their mental balance because of the rigours of prison life. All of them have been put in separate cells and jail authorities have not provided them with shaving kits. The food they are given is horrid, and there are no medical facilities. The question that needs to be asked is: now that there is no One Unit, why have political prisoners been transferred to another province? This is perhaps the first batch of political prisoners from Sind that has been sent to jail in another province.

To receive visitors is the legal right of a prisoner. Under what law can this right be denied? Under what law can people be suppressed just because they want their democratic rights?

CSO: 4600/220

## KHANS MAY BE MOVED TO HOMETOWN

Karachi DAWN in English 22 Dec 83 p 12

[Text] PESHAWAR, Dec 21: The veteran Khudai Khidmatgar leader, Khan Abdul Ghaffar Khan, his son, Khan Abdul Wali Khan, and Begum Nasim Wali Khan, Vice-President of the defunct NDP, will very shortly be shifted to their Wali Bagh residence from the local Reading Hospital, where they are under treatment for the last few days.

Prior to their shifting to the Peshawar hospital, Khan Abdul Ghaffar Khan was at the CMH, Rawalpindi, while Abdul Wali Khan and Begum Nasim Wali were respectively detained at Tanda Dam Rest House and Wali Bagh residence of the family.

It is learnt that all of them are now well and have been allowed by doctors to be shifted from the hospital.

Party sources told this correspondent that Wali Khan and Begum Nasim Wali had asked the authorities to shift them to Haripur jail, where many of their party colleagues and workers are presently detained. But the request has not been accepted and they have been politely advised to go to Wali Bagh. Ghaffar Khan will also go to Wali Bagh along with his son and daughter-in-law.

**Fazle Haq**

Meanwhile, the NWFP Governor, Lt. Gen. Fazle Haq, met the detained leaders twice during the last week and remained with Abdul Wali Khan and Begum Nasim Wali for several hours, during which, as the Governor himself admitted, they discussed a wide range of subjects, including internal and external situation. The Governor seemed to be, at least, partly satisfied with these lengthy discussions.

Political circles believed that these meetings took place at the behest of the federal leadership. In this context, they also referred to President Zia-ul-Haq's two courtesy calls on Khan Abdul Ghaffar Khan at CMH, Rawalpindi, and described them significant under the existing political climate in the country.

Important political personalities, close to Wali Khan and the Begum, have also noted a change in attitude towards MRD Movement by the political leadership in NWFP, Sind and Baluchistan. This is being attributed to MRD leadership's anticipatory miscalculations of the extent of political bearings of the Movement, which, in their opinion, has failed to bring about the desired change in the behaviour of the Islamabad hierarchy.

**'Partial success'**

Nevertheless, these circles believed that some of the objectives of the Movement have been definitely achieved in the form of visible lukewarm attitude of the rulers towards political leaders and party workers, and a somewhat changed thinking, which is evident from the release of lawyers, political workers and a more positive approach towards the problems of people of Sind, the epicentre of the Movement.

These circles also refer to Islamabad's overtures to politicians, particularly in Sind and NWFP, and the feelers being given out about advancing the date of general elections in the country.

Though the MRD leadership is shy of confirming it, yet there are reasons to believe that at least one MRD component, the defunct NDP — and it is perhaps to begin with — has asked its workers to stop court-ing arrests.

There are also indications that defunct NDP workers, and others too, will shortly be released, along with their leaders, so as to create a healthier political climate for initiating a purposeful dialogue.

## BHOPALI MURDER CASE: SAMMO TO BE TRIED BY MILITARY COURT

Karachi DAWN in English 22 Dec 83 p 12

[Text] KARACHI, Dec 21: The special investigation team dealing with Bhopali murder case has completed its work and proposes to arraign the principal accused, Ayaz Sammo, before a special military court early next week, well-placed sources said.

He will face trial under MLR-54 read with Section 302/34 PPC. Co-accused Javed Malik, a collegian, will, however, be shown as an absconder.

It was stated that five co-accused rounded up with Sammo were "not involved" in the crime but would be tried separately under MLR-54 by a military court.

The trial was expected to be held in Karachi Central Prison.

The five co-accused to be tried separately under MLR-54 (trial of saboteurs and terrorists for the acts of aiding, abetting, assisting, having knowledge of a crime, concealment of facts, providing shelter to an offender (terrorist) and not divulging information to the law enforcing agency about any terrorist activity despite knowledge, etc. providing maximum penalty of death are as under: Sadiq Imrani, President of defunct PPP, Nasirabad (Baluchistan); Noor Mohammad, Agriculturist of Hub Dam, Manghopir; Zahid Hussain, General Secretary, Karachi Gas

Company; Maula Bux, Joint Secretary, State Bank's Union and Mohammad Ashfaq, a Sailor.

As regards the 'motive' of the crime, sources said they had examined over two dozen witnesses, including 10 eye-witnesses (being cited in the final challan) indicate the intent to create chaos, panic, political instability and seek revenge on the opponents of the previous regime.

Ayaz Sammo who worked as a welder in Naya Daur Motors until 1981, will face trial in four cases before the ML Court and in one case before a civil court.

It was stated that Sammo had snatched the car of Sheikh Ejazur Rehman in Defence Society at gunpoint and had gone straight to the PECHS office of late Mr Bhopali after picking up co-accused Javed Malik (said to have crossed over to India) and Ilyas Siddiqi (who died in the indiscriminate firing of accused Sammo) and shot Mr Bhopali dead from a point-blank range. He got away firing at random with absconding accused Javed Malik and leaving Ilyas Siddiqi dead at the doorstep of Mr Bhopali's office.

For the murder of Mr Bhopali, Sammo will go on trial before the military court. For snatching the car of Sheikh Ejaz, he will face trial

in a civil court.

Sammo will also face trial in a military court on three other counts: recovery of Soviet-made sub-machine gun at his pointation from Lyari riverbed; for two car robbery cases of North Nazimabad on Nov. 25 and Dec. 6. Besides, he would face trial in a civil court along with Sailor Mohammad Ashfaq for recovery of two foreign-made pistols from them at the time of their arrests from New Town Market lately.

Identification parade of accused Ayaz Sammo was held a few days ago before a Magistrate in which the witnesses identified the accused.

A "confessional statement" under section 164 Cr. P.C. of Sammo has already been recorded by ACM Noor Mohammad Soomro.

The ballistic expert report on Soviet made weapons (said to have been used in the murder of Bhopali) is likely to reach the investigators in a day or two, sources said.

Another accused, Sadiq Imrani, will also face a military court trial under MLR-17 for impersonation and forgery for the bid to conceal his identity when checked by the law enforcing agency in PECHS.

## BRIEFS

NWFP OVERSEAS WORKERS' CELL--PESHAWAR, Dec 21--The NWFP Cabinet on Wednesday decided to create a special overseas labour cell in the provincial Ministry of Industries and Labour to facilitate solution of the problems of overseas Pakistani workers, belonging to the province. The decision was taken in the wake of the provincial Governor, Lt-Gen Fazle Haq's recent visit to the Gulf States and his meetings with the Pakistani labour working there. Gen Fazle Haq who presided over the Cabinet meeting, briefed the provincial Ministers about the problems being faced by the overseas Pakistanis with regard to Customs, Immigration, job opportunities, education of their children etc. The cell will be assigned the task of thrashing out the complaints and grievances of the overseas Pakistanis and take up their cases with the concerned authorities in the Federal Government, in order to obviate their hardships. [Excerpt] [Karachi DAWN in English 22 Dec 83 p 9]

NASRULLAH, PALEJO PRISONERS OF CONSCIENCE--LAHORE, Dec 21--Amnesty International, London, has declared the PDP Chief, Nawabzada Nasrullah Khan, and the Sind Awami Tehrik leader, Mr Rasul Bakhsh Palejo, prisoners of conscience. In a letter addressed to Mr S. M. Zafar, Patron-in-Chief of the Pakistan Human Rights Society, amnesty International expressed its appreciation of the Society's decision to give human rights awards to the two public leaders. Amnesty also welcomed the constitution of a committee to conduct a probe into the development of Sind, adding that it would be eagerly looking for the committee's report. The Secretary-General of the Society, Mr A. M. Shakoori disclosed that the committee would shortly visit the interior of Sind and submit its report, which would be made public. [Text] [Karachi DAWN in English 22 Dec 83 p 12]

1984 'YEAR OF POLITICAL PRISONERS'--HYDERABAD, Dec 21--A prominent leader of the defunct PPP Makhdoom Shafiq-uz-Zaman of Hala, has fully endorsed the proposal of the President, Bar Association, Punjab High Court, Mr Afzal Hyder to declare the year 1984 as the year of "political detenus" and assured him of his full support in this respect. Makhdoom Shafiq-uz-Zaman in a Press statement, said that this year strenuous efforts should be made to mitigate the sufferings of political detenus and patriots, who have been jailed for "no fault" of theirs. He appealed to all political parties to get united and raise their voice in favour of this proposal. He regretted that condition of jails throughout the country, specially in Sind, was horrible and the hardships being faced by political prisoners, were beyond any description. He



alleged that even the political detenus have not been provided with any facility to offer prayers five times a day in these jails "collectively". [Text] [Karachi DAWN in English 22 Dec 83 p 12]

TEACHING CONTRACTS NOT RENEWED--THE Punjab University has declined to renew the contracts of three eminent lawyers to teach at the Law College. The lawyers whose contracts have not been renewed are Mr. Abid Hasan Minto, Chairman, All Pakistan Lawyers National Coordination Committee, Mr. Aamer Raza A. Khan, former judge of the Lahore High Court and Advocate-General, Punjab, and Khalid Latif Kardar. They had been teaching at the University Law College for years. [Text] [Lahore VIEWPOINT in English 15 Dec 83 p 15]

MAZARI'S DETENTION EXTENDED--Karachi, Dec 11--The detention of Sardar Sherbaz Mazari has been extended by another 30 days. According to his family sources the extension order was served upon him here today. It may be recalled that Sardar Saheb was brought from Multan in the second week of October and was detained in his residence for 30 days. Since then his detention has been extended twice. [Text] [Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 12 Dec 83 p 6]

PAGARA LEAGUE, JI ON ELECTIONS--Karachi, Dec 11--The Jamaat-e-Islami and Muslim League (Pagara Group) are considering to change their attitude towards the elections on non-party basis. It is reliably learnt that both the parties have realised that the announcement of their leaders recently that they will participate in the elections even if the same were held on non-party basis has created a wrong impression in the public particularly among the political circles. According to knowledgeable sources both the parties regret that their statements in this regard had not been taken in the proper spirit. The sources believe that during the recent meeting between the Pir Saheb Pagara of PML and Prof Ghafoor Ahmed of J.I. the matter was discussed and very soon a clarification in this connection might come from both the parties. The sources believe that this rethinking among the leaders of both the parties have come after the signing of an agreement between the JUP, Jamaat Ahle Hadis and JUI (Darkhawasti group) for co-operation for the restoration of democracy in the country. [Text] [Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 12 Dec 83 p 6]

PPP TO OBSERVE DEMOCRACY DAY--Lahore, Dec 11--The defunct Pakistan People's Party, Europe branch, has plans to observe "democracy day" on Jan 8, 1984 in London, Bredford, Paris, Amsterdam, Berlin, Stockholm and Brussels, according to People's Party sources here. January 8 is the birthday of the late Prime Minister Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto. Public meetings will be held and a new book 'Socialist Inqilab Aur Pakistan' will also be inaugurated on the occasion. Ten British members of parliament belonging to Labour Party will also participate in London and Bredford meetings, they added. [Text] [Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 12 Dec 83 p 6]

FORMER MINISTER ON PROVINCES' ROLE--Lahore, Dec 14--Dr Mobashir Hassan, a former Federal Minister, has suggested to put an end to the debate on "whether the Punjab is guilty or not in the national affairs" adding that it was not contrary to the interest of the country. In a statement to the Press Dr Mobashir Hassan said that the media should desist from raising "controversial" issues as it would result in further deterioration of the political situation. He was of the view that democracy did not flourish in the last 36 years for which the responsibility rested on ruling classes rather than the people. Therefore, holding people of one province or the other responsible for hindering the way of democracy was unjust, he added. Dr Mobashir Hassan said, "it is no service to the country to accuse the people of certain provinces for the doing of rulers," as it would create dissatisfaction among the people of different provinces. [Text] [Karachi DAWN in English 15 Dec 83 p 14]

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